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LOOKING BACK, MOVING ON — 50 YEARS SINCE JFK'S ASSASSINATION PAGES 30

Poor Shannon gets savagely Shoe'd over

In which a phone call to Xu ends in accusations of betrayal PAGE 38

Calgary S.E. ring road will open Friday: Province

Project delays. Network was originally supposed to open on Oct. 1

JEREMY NOLAIS
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It's expected to be smooth sailing for southeast Calgary motorists come midday Friday, as their long-awaited portion of the ring road will open for traffic.

Alberta Transportation spokesperson Parker Hogan confirmed an event is planned to formally unveil the road network, which consists of 25 kilometres of roadway across six lanes of divided highway as well as 27 bridges, nine interchanges and three flyovers. Another 12 kilometres of road will also be open at Deerfoot Trail between Stoney Trail and the Highway 2A Junction.

Hogan said the road will not be ready in time for the morning rush hour.

The network was originally supposed to open Oct. 1 but the contractor blamed poor weather, finishing touches and an outstanding safety audit from the province for the delay.

Calgary Coun. Shane Keating welcomed word of the unveiling and said he looked forward to taking a cruise on it himself upon returning from Grey Cup festivities in Saskatchewan.

"Once it's opened, the speed in which you can get to the rest of the city is going to be huge," he said.

Keating had been critical of the province after word of delays first surfaced, but Alberta Transportation has been quick to point out contractor group Chinook Roads Partnership is on the hook for a $70,000 fine for each day the road remained closed past its original opening date.

If that penalty holds up, the group will now be on the hook for $3.6 million, but chief executive Dale Woodroffe has expressed an opinion that not all of the delays were the fault of his workers.

Alberta Transportation Minister Ric McIver said, however, he has full intentions of seeing to it that the terms laid out in the contract with Chinook are followed.

"I'm frustrated in the fact that contractor didn't get it done in time, but construction is like that," he said.

A BRUSH WITH TINSELTOWN

It was Hollywood today, gone tomorrow for Devan Sangumaran and the crew at Inglewood Pizza and Pasta. The southeast pizzeria was used as a backdrop during the filming of Fargo, a small-screen adaptation of the acclaimed black-comedy film that's being shot around Calgary for the next six months. See story, page 8. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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NEWS 1

Water management

Sci-fi to sci-fact? Mayor Nenshi has visions of tunnels

When the idea of a massive, underground tunnel to run excess water from the Glenmore Reservoir to the Bow River beneath a major Calgary thoroughfare was first proposed, Mayor Naheed Nenshi admits he found it a bit wacky.

"I've got to tell you, when I first heard about this tunnel under 58th Avenue, I thought it was pure science fiction," Nenshi said Thursday. "But, as we've talked to people who are experts in water management from around the world — people from the Netherlands, for example — they say this kind of thing is very common and it actually makes a lot of sense."

Now, the mayor is excited at the prospect of investigating the concept further, with $250,000 in funding from the provincial government.

If Calgary's expert panel on flood mitigation thinks the ambitious undertaking would be feasible, and the province agrees, Premier Alison Redford said her government would be open to paying for it. The tunnel, however, would be controlled by the city.

In addition, Nenshi mused that, if the province invests in tunnel-boring machinery, it could be used for other projects, such as underground LRT lines.

"I've got to imagine that a tunnel-boring machine can make different kinds of tunnels," he said. "So that's one of the things I'm going to ask them to look at in the study."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Premier Alison Redford announces new details about flood-mitigation plans during the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association conference in Calgary on Thursday.
ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Redford details anti-flood plans

Protection proposals. Premier reveals potential projects, including dam, underground bypass for Calgary

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Premier Alison Redford revealed more details Thursday about the province's plans for flood mitigation in southern Alberta, including a river diversion around the town of High River and two potential projects to protect Calgary.

Those include a dry dam upstream on the Elbow River that Redford said could be used to store water and control the rate at which it flows into the city during peak periods, as well as a tunnel diversion that would see water flow underground from the Glenmore Reservoir to the Bow River.

The latter is still only a concept, but Redford said the province will give Calgary $250,000 to study the tunnel idea further.

"There's still design work to be done," she said. "It will depend on what the ultimate engineering options are."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi welcomed both the dam and the tunnel proposals.

"The upstream stuff, in particular, I'm very pleased to see them moving forward on," he said. "We can probably mitigate somewhere between a third and 50 per cent of the flows on the Elbow River by doing that, without causing much damage upstream. So to me, that makes a lot of sense."

Andre Corbould, head of the Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force, said water bypass around High River could cost between $100 million and $300 million.

"Really that depends on the alignment and the width and all the geotechnical engineering," he said.

Funding

Premier Alison Redford said she expects the federal government to contribute some of the funding for major flood-mitigation projects.

- As for timelines of the projects, the premier said, "We want to get them done as soon as possible."
- There will be additional flood-mitigation projects announced later, Redford said.

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Police warn Calgarians about deadly Krokodil drug

Unconfirmed cases in Canada. Frequent users likely to die within two years: Top doctor

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Unconfirmed reports of a highly addictive, flesh-eating drug in Eastern Canada and south of the border have Calgary police on alert and warning of the grave dangers it can pose to users.

Known as Krokodil, the toxic substance consists of a mix of codeine and basic household products like gasoline, paint thinner and iodine.

Its name stems from the scaly, crocodile-like skin that forms around the injection site on a person's body.

Reports of the drug first surfaced in Canada this week with multiple people in Ontario's Niagara Region claiming they'd used the drug. None of the instances have been confirmed medically, but it did prompt police in the area to issue a warning.

Similar unconfirmed reports have surfaced in at least a half-dozen states south of the border and reports indicate at least one death has been linked to the chemical.

In Calgary, top drug cop Staff Sgt. Tom Hanson said he's aware of the toxic blend and is keeping a careful watch out for cases locally.

"We're certainly not protected from things like this," he said. "If it's out there, I'm sure it will show up at some point or another."

Hanson pointed to 19 deaths linked to ecstasy laced with the compound PMMA in Alberta and B.C. in 2012 as evidence of the consequences of using illegally synthesized drugs.

Although medical professionals in the U.S. have no indications Krokodil will become anywhere near as popular as ecstasy among drug users, they also warn the toxic blend could be more harmful than any drug seen in recent memory on North American soil.

Dr. Frank LoVecchio, co-medical director at the Banner Good Samaritan Poison and Drug Information Center in Arizona, first brought to light reported cases of Krokodil use in the U.S. in late September.

He told Metro Thursday that in Russia, where Krokodil made its first appearances, the average user of the drug only lived one to two years after consistently injecting it. Most died of sepsis — "overwhelming infection" related to loss of skin, he added.

No local cases yet

Alberta Health Services confirmed in an email they have not seen any patients suffering from symptoms associated with the drug Krokodil in its emergency rooms.

Alya, 17, undergoes treatment for addiction to drugs, including Krokodil, at City Without Drugs in October in Russia. Police are now warning Calgarians to steer clear of the dangerous drug. BRENDAN HOFFMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Now served, Nenshi calls suit 'SLAPP' in the face

After being officially served Thursday with papers outlining the defamation suit against him by prominent Calgary home-builder Cal Wenzel, Mayor Naheed Nenshi continued to describe the lawsuit as an attempt at intimidation.

"I believe this to be, in my opinion, an example of what is sometimes called a SLAPP — a strategic lawsuit against public participation," Nenshi told reporters. "The idea behind a SLAPP is you file a lawsuit without really thinking you're going to win, you ask for outrageous damages, and the whole point of it is to distract your subject, to scare other people from speaking their minds, and to cause financial harm to the subject of the lawsuit through the payment of legal fees."

Nenshi said he currently has no intention of asking council to cover his legal fees, although he added that such a decision is typically made at the end of the legal process, according to city policy.

"That's a long, long time away," Nenshi said, adding it could be "many, many, many weeks, months, perhaps years" before the suit reaches its conclusion.

Wenzel filed the statement of claim against Nenshi earlier this month, alleging, among other things, that the mayor's public comparison of Wenzel in a leaked video to the movie The Godfather caused "real and substantial" damage to his reputation.

"Privately voicing my political views to an audience of land development and housing industry people was not an invitation to the Mayor and some members of council to use me as a figurative punching bag," Wenzel said in a written statement.

The allegations have not been proven in court and Nenshi has not yet filed a statement of defence.

ROBSON FLETCHER/WITH FILES FROM NEWSTALK 770

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Support. Calgary Poppy Fund reports rush of donations despite thefts

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Nearly $450,000 in cash and food donations have poured into the Calgary Poppy Fund's headquarters alone and organizers are hopeful overall amounts raised will be on par with last year's total, despite repeated incidents of theft.

As of Thursday, volunteers had yet to track down more than 100 donation pots and feared many were stolen.

But chief administrative officer Joey Bleviss said, despite the crime wave plaguing this year's drive, the amount collected at the headquarters appeared equal to 2012's earnings.

Donations were still being tallied at Calgary legions with a final count expected next week.

"Calgary has really come to the forefront and they've always supported us — the veterans and the food bank," Bleviss said. "We're hanging in there like dirty shirts."

Joey Bleviss, chief administrative officer with the Calgary Poppy Fund METRO FILE

Helping veterans

The Calgary Poppy Fund drive is the primary annual fundraiser for veterans in the city. Money raised is use to provide everything from housing and medication to transportation.

- **Contribute.** Contact 403-264-6304 or email calpopp@telus.net.

$6-MILLION LAWSUIT LOOKS LIKE A BULLY MOVE TO ME

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

Saturday marks the final day of this year's National Bullying Week. It's a cause that has gained more and more national attention recently. As someone who was bullied growing up, I know a bully when I see one. I saw it in Rob Ford's eyes this week and I saw it when I read Cal Wenzel's statement of claim in his defamation lawsuit against Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

He might not want to draw extra attention to it, but, at least according to the now infamous leaked video, it would seem that Cal Wenzel is very involved in the Calgary election process. That's fine — the more people who want to be involved in democracy, the better. But, instead of admitting he got caught saying some things he'd probably rather not have seen aired publicly, the owner of Shane Homes is now going after Nenshi for drawing even further attention to those statements.

Man, I really thought I was done writing about this year's municipal election.

Of course, I'm no lawyer, unless you count owning every season of Ally McBeal, but when you and your friends invest more than $1.1 million into a campaign against the mayor and his perceived allies, you have to at least be prepared to play the game. Otherwise it's like joining a dodgeball league and being annoyed when you get hit by a few balls.

Did Wenzel really think he could play backroom politics and not ruffle a few feathers?

I, for one, am glad we have a mayor who stands up to bullies, especially those who organize private meetings and attempt to "control whatever happens" at city council. In that same video, Wenzel refers to Nenshi and several other councillors as the "dark side." If Nenshi can't defend himself against that, what can he do?

Truthfully, before the video came out, I had never heard of Cal Wenzel. But now, any time I hear his name, that's all I think about. Anytime I hear Shane Homes, that's all I think about. Anytime I hear of home builders, that's all I think about. And I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one.

Gimme one reason to pay here

If all Wenzel really wanted was an apology, suing for $6 million seems like quite an overreaction to not getting one.

If Wenzel is worried that Nenshi is damaging his public reputation, as a member of said public, I can tell you the mayor has nothing to do with my perception of Homes.

It's a reputation I would argue is worsened by the impending lawsuit and, in turn, will likely cost the mayor — or taxpayers — thousands of dollars in legal fees, not to mention the countless hours of distraction from running the city that he was twice overwhelmingly elected to run.

If all Wenzel really wanted was an apology, suing for $6 million seems like quite an overreaction to not getting one. To me, at least, the lawsuit seems more like intimidation, or a grown-up form of bullying. A $6-million threat is quite frightening to most people, who don't have anything close to that kind of money.

This might have been Wenzel's most forceful attempt to influence council, but it's hardly the first, which is why I hope Nenshi and those councillors to whom Wenzel referred to in the video as "totally out of control" continue to stand up for themselves. If Wenzel really wants to control someone's vote at council, there's only one way to be sure — by winning an election, himself.

Of course, he's more than welcome to try … in 2017.

MIKE MORRISON WRITES MIKE'S BLOGGITY BLOG AND TWEETS FROM @MIKESBLOGGITY.

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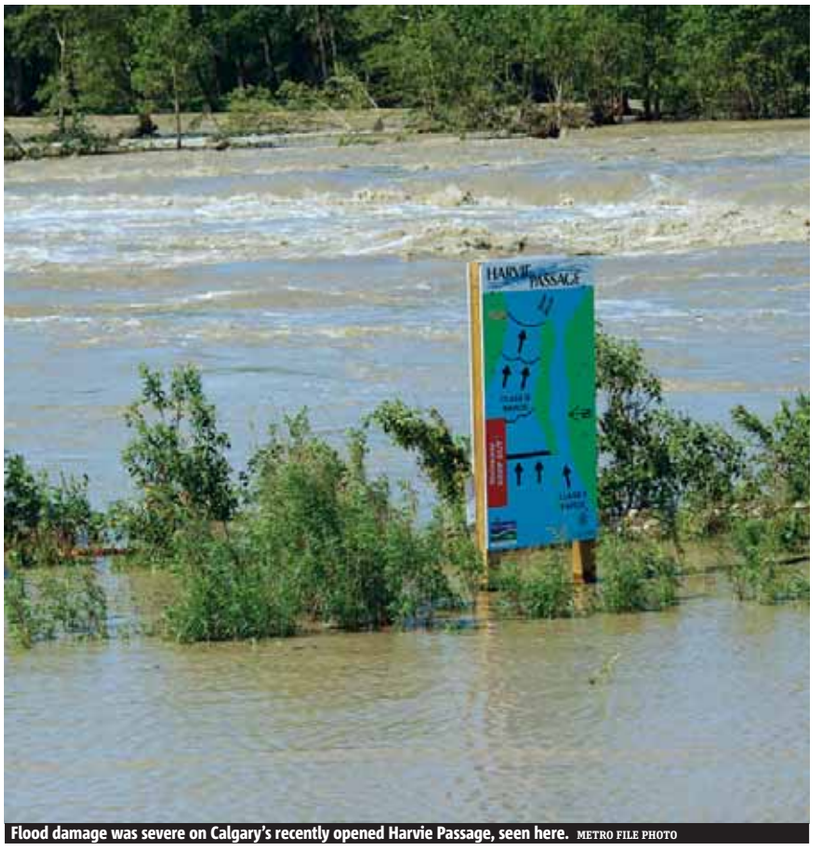

Flood damage was severe on Calgary's recently opened Harvie Passage, seen here. METRO FILE PHOTO

Reopening delayed as Harvie Passage sees troubled waters

Flood damage.
Province continues to assess destruction to stretch of Bow River

Paddlers have been told they may stay dry for two years while the province assesses and repairs a flood-damaged passage on the Bow River.

The $17-million Harvie Passage, designed to replace a dangerous weir on the Bow, had only been officially open for one season when June's historic surges of water caused significant destruction — loose rocks and a newly formed channel were among the dangers posed to those still brave enough to pass through. But while the province told Metro it was difficult to peg down a timeline for reopening the passage, Chuck Lee with the Alberta Whitewater Association said officials with Alberta Environment informed him as recently as two weeks ago that repairs would run until at least 2015.

"We've been told they won't have it fixed for another two years," Lee said. "It really puts a big kibosh on our paddling activities and our programs and it sort of sets us back in terms of what we can do and where we can go. It's quite disappointing, but it's just one of those things we're going to have to deal with."

The passage had been at the centre of much controversy in its inaugural year, as many amateur paddlers and rafters continued to pass through its raging currents despite not having proper training — or gear — to handle the rolling waves and abrupt dips. One rafter, Brad Kuhl, died after his raft overturned in the area.

Alberta Environment spokesperson Jacalyn Ambler said an initial assessment of the damage was done and some immediate repairs were undertaken to prevent ice damage during the winter.

But she said officials will have to wait patiently until spring or summer to get close enough to the passage to determine how to proceed with bringing it back to form.

JEREMY NOLAIS / METRO

A sea of cents

- Alberta Environment spokesperson Jacalyn Ambler said a cost for repairing Harvie Passage had not been determined, but added it will be "substantial."

Pizza joint gets a taste of showbiz

TV dinner. The miniseries Fargo is a small-screen adaptation of the acclaimed movie

Inglewood business owners rubbed shoulders with Hollywood bigwigs this week — literally — when the production crew behind Fargo descended upon their cozy pizzeria.

It started with a modest request to run a cable through the southeast pizza parlor amid filming of the miniseries. However, that spiraled into a full-on friendly occupation by more than two dozen people that stretched from wall-to-wall.

"I didn't even know you could fit so many people into this store," said owner Maria Sangumaran of Inglewood Pizza.

Calgary is doubling as a North Dakota city for the next six months during the production of a small-screen adaptation of Fargo, the acclaimed Coen brothers' film of the same name.

Much of the current filming is being done around the kitschy shops on 9th Ave. S.E. In this case, the Inglewood shop became Norm's Pizza while a fight scene was filmed out front.

Sangumaran was wowed to see stars such as Martin Freeman, of The Hobbit, display their acting chops outside her business.

She acknowledged it was "a really hard summer" for many much of the flood-weary community.

"This brings something exciting back the neighbour," Sangumaran said Thursday in an interview.

Conversation over the 10-episode series caught customer Jon Chardon's attention.

Chardon, who's slated to appear as an extra in Fargo, was keen to tout the opportunities and experience presented by recent Alberta-shot films including Discovery Channel's Klondike and AMC's Hell on Wheels. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Production crews and actors line 9th Street S.E. on Thursday during the filming of the TV miniseries Fargo. Here, it took roughly five hours to film a two-minute fight sequence, according to Inglewood business owners. REDDIT/IMGUR IMAGE

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BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Disenchanted Calgary Stampeders fans set on dumping their Grey Cup tickets are finding it hard to recoup what they've already spent.

With only a couple days left before the CFL's sold-out championship game in Regina, dozens of classified ads were still posted online on Thursday night. Prices ranged from $350 up to $1,000.

Rob Hamilton is still hoping to make back at least the face value of $2,000 for his four tickets.

"I've got offers for half of what I've asked for so far and that's it," said Hamilton. "Or somebody asked for one ticket."

Stampeders season-ticket holder Scott McTavish is mulling over a "fire sale" on his Grey Cup seats.

McTavish decided to opt out of watching the Sunday showdown live after the Horsemen were soundly defeated at McMahon Stadium in the west final. Frigid weather and near zero-per-cent accommodation vacancy rates were factors, too, he added.

Oh, and then there's the Mosaic Stadium faithful partaking in a hometown title game.

"Really, do you want to sit next to a Riders fan at a football game?" he asked. "Let's be honest, there's only so much watermelon you can take on your clothing."

Many Calgary Stampeders fans were disappointed by a 35-13 home loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the west final. METRO FILE

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N.W. Theft spree Thursday may be linked to seven other robberies: Police

Calgary police are investigating a carjacking, motel robbery and car theft in Bowness, all of which they believe are related.

The crime spree started Thursday morning when a woman in her car was approached by two people in the 6000 block of Bow Crescent N.W. and threatened with a weapon.

She was forced into the back seat of the vehicle, robbed and then let out of the vehicle a block away.

Then, shortly after 7 a.m., police received reports of a robbery at the Days Inn in the 4000 block of 16th Avenue N.W.

A man and woman described as Aboriginal robbed an employee.

The vehicle initially stolen was then found abandoned after it crashed into a guardrail on the Shouldice Bridge.

Finally, just before 8 a.m., an idling SUV was stolen from the 6200 block of 31st. Avenue N.W. and found a short time later in the 3000 block of 67 Street N.W.

Police believe all of the incidents are related and currently reviewing available CCTV footage for clues.

Investigators are also working to determine if Thursday's crimes were committed by the same people responsible for seven other robberies dating back to Nov. 9. METRO

Call police

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers.

Vanier Cup

Nenshi confident in long-shot Dinos

Mayor Naheed Nenshi is confident it will be Laval Mayor Marc Demers wearing a University of Calgary Dinos jersey — and not the other way around — following Saturday's Vanier Cup.

Nenshi placed a jersey-exchange bet with the mayor of the city home to the Laval Rouge et Or, widely considered the best CIS football team in Canada. "The Dinos will crush the Rouge et Or on Saturday," Nenshi said. "They'd better, because otherwise I've got a pretty big bet I've got to make up for."

Nenshi also included a donation to the opposing city's food bank as part of his bet and is encouraging fans of each football team to do the same. METRO

Medicentre Medical

Sherwood Park doctor faces sexual assault charges

A Sherwood Park physician has been charged with sexual assault after a 19-year old woman came forward to police.

The young woman came to police on Aug. 19, two days after the incident is alleged to have happened at Medicentre Medical Clinic located on Bremner Drive in Sherwood Park. The woman alleged she was assaulted while being treated for an illness.

Police investigated the incident and have charged Ismail Taher, 36, who is a resident of Edmonton, with one count of sexual assault. METRO

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Sears

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Ben Brunnen, author of the latest Manning Foundation report, talks about the growth of municipal spending between 2006 and 2011. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Manning Foundation calls for widespread service privatization

City spending. Private sector holds the key to fiscal stability, argues conservative think-tank

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Municipal spending has far outpaced the rate of population growth and inflation for the past half decade, and Calgary should consider large-scale privatization of services to get its costs under control, according to a new report from the Manning Foundation.

"Currently the City of Calgary has some good policies in place with respect to public-private partnerships in contracting for services," report author Ben Brunnen said Thursday. "Where there are some inconsistencies is with respect to some other services, such as community supports and recreation."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said he's open to privatizing some city services "as long as the numbers make sense" but added it's an over-simplification to look at privatization as a panacea.

"Enmax has returned more than $650 million in dividends to the citizens of Calgary (since 2001), and this is not what we would have gotten had we sold it for a lump sum back in the day," Nenshi said.

But Brunnen said the city needs to take serious steps to rein in spending, which, according to his report, grew by 51 per cent between 2006 to 2011.

Oversimplifying?

"Anyone who just says, 'Oh, you'll save money by contracting out,' hasn't read the evidence."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi

Calgary is often vaunted for its relatively low property-tax rate, but Brunnen said "that's on the basis of residential taxes alone."

"When you consider the total tax burden in a municipality — so, the residential, the non-residential, the business tax, and even if you include franchise and utility fees — Calgary is the second-highest-taxed jurisdiction, per capita, of major Canadian cities, second only to Montreal," he said.

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CBE pay change tough on staff: Union

Money matters. Board says it stands to save with new model

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Calgary's public school board is moving to streamline how it pays all non-teaching staff, but a union representative warns the transition could create financial hardship for some.

The Calgary Board of Education says it currently processes payments on three different schedules and is moving to a more standardized system that will see pay periods run up until six days before money appears in their employees' bank accounts. The move will also require the board to temporarily withhold one week's worth of pay from members, which will be taken in small increments from their paycheques over 26 pay periods.

Bob Anderson, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees local, which represents about 700 custodial workers, said while the model is better than an original pitch in May to make employees cover the one week's pay in just four months, even a slight deviation in earnings could spell trouble for some of his members.

"It's extremely onerous on the backs of the employees to finance the Calgary Board of Education," Anderson said, adding his phone has been ringing off the hook with calls from frustrated members.

"At the end of the day, you're still only going to get paid for 51 weeks when you've done 52 weeks or work," he said.

The roughly 7,000 members represented by the CBE Staff Association will also be impacted by the change.

But the board pointed out in a statement it is also offering employees two options to help mitigate impacts of the change. Staff can request up to five days or vacation payout or accept an advance equal to one week of net pay.

Migration. Canadians flock to Alberta en masse

Canadians are on the move and heading West in massive numbers in the quest for high-paying jobs and low taxes, a Bank of Montreal report suggests.

The bank says in a new analysis that inter-provincial migration hit the highest level in almost a quarter of century in the past year, with the population flow to oil-rich Alberta surging to more than 50,000 people during the 12-month span ending June 30, the highest on record.

The data shows that every region is losing people in the competition between provinces, except Alberta and Saskatchewan.

BMO economist Robert Kavcic said inter-provincial migration was well established in the early 2000s as Alberta emerged as the country's growth engine, but stalled somewhat during the 2008-09 recession.

The major factor for the movement is availability of work, the report says. Alberta and Saskatchewan lead the nation with unemployment rates of 4.4 and 3.6 per cent respectively, well below the 6.9 per cent national average. The four Atlantic provinces, meanwhile, have jobless rates ranging from 9.1 per cent in Nova Scotia to 11.0 per cent in Newfoundland and Labrador.

As well, average hourly wages are now $6 higher in Alberta than they are in Atlantic Canada – the highest gap on record – and about $4 higher than in Ontario and British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power demand

Alberta sets new electricity record with cold weather this week

For the second time this week, Alberta's demand for electricity has reached an all-time high.

According to the Alberta Electric Operator, it hit 10,677 megawatts at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Spokeswoman Dawn Delaney says records are typically hit in the winter, but usually not this early in the season.

She says this shows power demand is growing fast, and will continue to go higher, as the province's economy grows.

The operator asks that people reduce power use by running major appliances, such as clothes washers and dryers, after 7 p.m.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lethbridge

Mayor talks ambulance concerns with health minister

Lethbridge Mayor Chris Spearman has approached Alberta's health minister about concerns with a plan to consolidate ambulance dispatch in the province. He and Fred Horne spoke at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association convention in Calgary. Spearman says it doesn't appear that Horne is willing to change course, but may consider delaying the plan. The mayor says centralized ambulance dispatch is the No. 1 concern of most delegates at the convention. He says communities already using consolidated service in southern Alberta are reporting 30- to 45-minute waits.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi said he was surprised and pleased to see himself ranked second on a national magazine's list of most powerful people. METRO FILE

Mayor Nenshi makes power list

Take that, Toronto.

While Mayor Rob Ford continues to embarrass Torontonians our mayor ranks as the second most powerful Canadian

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Maclean's placed Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi just behind Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a list of the most powerful and influential Canadians the magazine released Thursday.

The list, part of the magazine's "Power Issue," now on newsstands, was compiled by "writers and editors at Maclean's who cover the Canadian scene ... with three broad concepts in mind: institutional clout, capacity for innovation and timeliness."

Nenshi was surprised by the magazine's decision.

"But it's a very nice thing," he said, adding that it was interesting to see two Calgarians — himself, and Harper — at the top of the list.

"One of the things we learned this summer more than anything else is that real power doesn't live with government or executives," said Nenshi.

"Every single one of us has the power to improve our community, and if I was going to say who Canada's most powerful people are, I would say the everyday heroes who every single day make the community better."

The magazine admits the list is subjective, adding, "Defining power is almost as hard as acquiring and keeping it."

West is best

"The centre of this influence in this country is shifting to Calgary and to the West, and I think that's a really neat thing."
Mayor Naheed Nenshi

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Fun and games are serious business

A row of masks for sale at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions annual trade show in Orlando, Fla. TAMARA LUISH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orlando. Bounce houses, giant animatronic bugs, zip lines and roller-coaster wheels all on offer at trade show

Have you ever wondered where your fun comes from?

The answer: Here, at the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions expo.

The five-day trade show took place this week in Orlando, smack in the middle of the world's biggest theme-park corridor. It's the largest such convention in the world, and people from more than 100 countries either attend or exhibit at the mind-bogglingly massive show.

If one were to walk the entire show floor, it would tally 15 kilometres.

Here, leisure is serious business. There's everything that a theme park, entertainment centre, zoo or museum could want at this show.

Montreal-based company Triotech had one of the largest spaces at the expo. They are developing an interactive, dark roller coaster for Cedar Fair Entertainment Company's Toronto park.

"We met them on the floor a couple of years ago," said Matt Ouimet, CEO of Cedar Fair. Triotech's coaster is scheduled to open at Canada's Wonderland in May 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania

3,2,1 ... giant mushroom!

A town near Philadelphia that's famous for fungus will ring in 2014 with a giant mushroom.

The 318-kilogram, stainless-steel toadstool will be lowered from a crane Dec. 31 as residents of Kennett Square count down to the New Year.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports the sculpture will be more than two metres wide and 2.5 metres tall.

Kennett Square calls itself the mushroom capital of the world because area farms account for about half of U.S. mushroom production.

The mushroom joins a slew of quirky New Year's Eve traditions in Pennsylvania.

In Bethlehem, residents celebrate Jan. 1 by lowering an 38-kg statue of a Marshmallow Peep, since the treats are made locally.

In Easton, officials drop a three-metre-tall lighted crayon because the city is home to Crayola Inc. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crowdfunding. Young entrepreneur's smart watch raises over $200K

A 19-year-old entrepreneur from Montreal is taking on tech juggernauts Samsung and Sony by trying to launch his own smart watch.

Like many startup companies, Neptune Computer Inc. has turned to an online crowdfunding platform to raise funding for a full launch of its product.

Simon Tian's vision for a better smart watch quickly won over the community at Kickstarter. Tian hit his target of $100,000 in just over 24 hours and passed $200,000 Thursday afternoon with 30 more days to raise additional funds.

He had the idea for his smart watch, called the Neptune Pine, last year and visited factories in China to investigate what he could have built.

The first thing that stands out about the Neptune Pine is its 2.4-inch screen, which he admits looks large on a wrist.

"Obviously the initial reaction will be 'Oh, it's big for a watch!' but we think a paradigm shift is going to be required in the future," said Tian. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Neptune Pine smart watch's large screen allows for web browsing, launching Google Android apps and making phone calls. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

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Cyprus university takes e-cash for tuition

Foreign students wanted. Move targets people pursuing online degrees from abroad

Cyprus' biggest private university said Thursday it will start accepting the digital currency Bitcoin as an alternative way to pay tuition fees.

The country had been a hub for international banking before suffering a collapse in its financial system this year, leading the government to impose controls on the flow of capital as it accepted an international bailout.

But the University of Nicosia said the move to accept Bitcoin was unrelated to the controls. Rather, it was meant to help foreign students in countries where traditional banking transactions are either difficult or costly to pay for programs such as online degrees.

The university's chief financial officer, Christos Vlachos, said the institution, which has about 8,500 students enrolled, is the first in the world to take Bitcoin payments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking ahead

"It's the gold of tomorrow."

Christos Vlachos, CFO at the University of Nicosia, extolling the virtues of the electronic currency Bitcoin.

The university claims it's the first to take Bitcoins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In a galaxy far, far away

Biggest explosion ever spotted

Had it been closer, Earth would have been toast.

Astronomers who saw the fireworks show of a lifetime in April call it the monster.

The biggest and brightest cosmic explosion since Big Bang occurred 3.7 billion light-years away, but NASA telescopes did register the powerful death of a massive star, according to four scientific studies published Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this galaxy

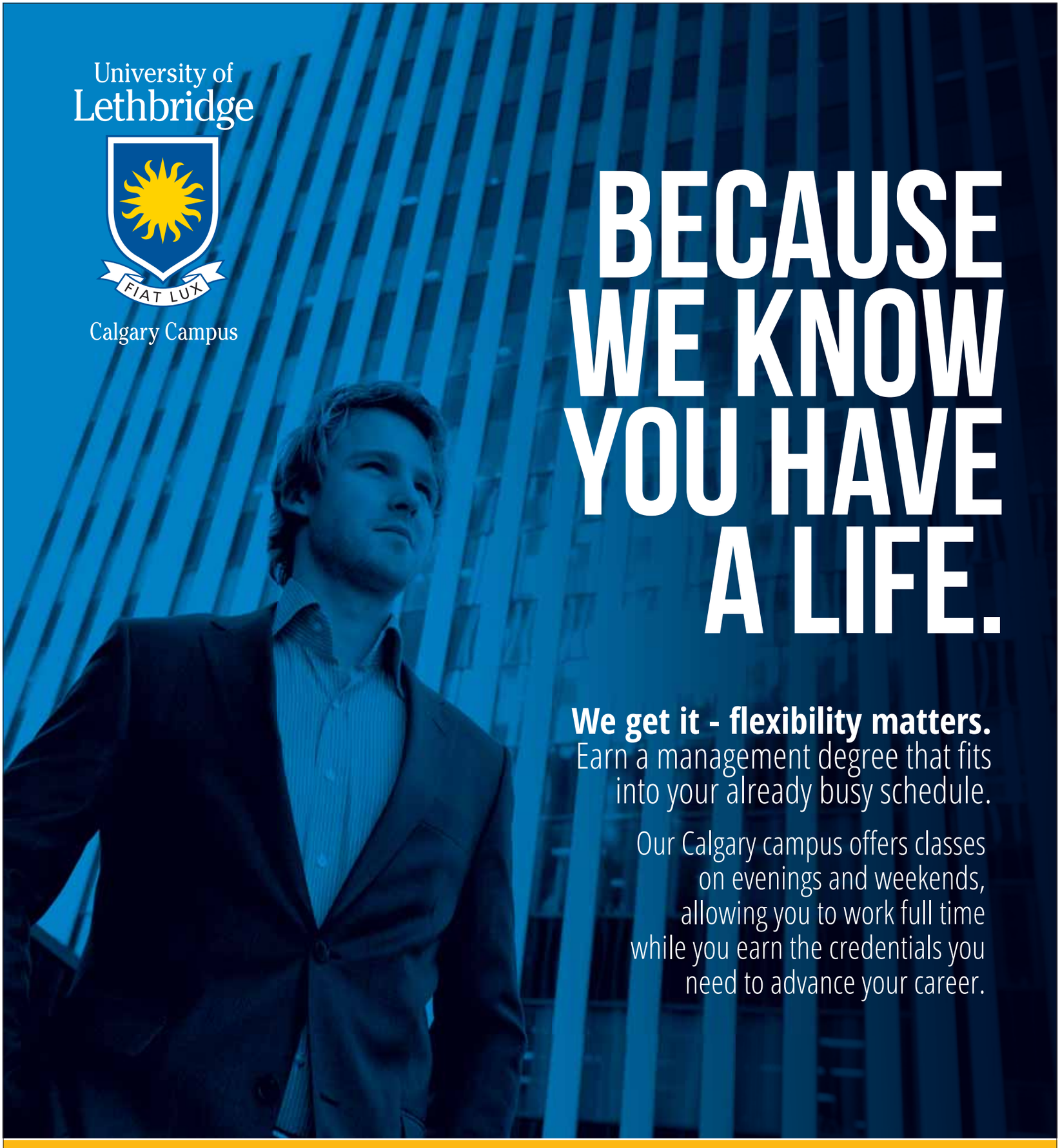
Man lives months with corpse, gets probation

A man who police say lived for several months in a Detroit-area trailer home with a woman's corpse has been sentenced to probation in the case.

Dennis McCauley was arrested in the spring after an eviction officer stumbled upon the body of 72-year-old Ann Marquis sitting on a sofa. She had died of natural causes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Purr, leaves, roar, whee!

Karis, this uber-adorable lion cub of just eleven weeks, shows off her kitty claws as she plays in a pile of fallen leaves inside her enclosure at Blair Drummond Safari Park, near Stirling, central Scotland, on Wednesday. ANDREW MILLIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Medical-pot users feeling outed by Health Canada

Panic mode. Mass mailing identifying recipients as pot smokers has some patients upset

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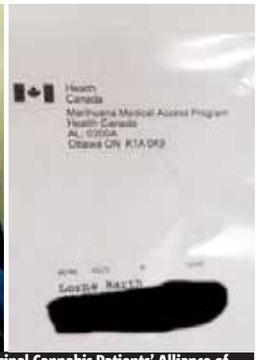

Laurie MacEachern, director of the Medicinal Cannabis Patients' Alliance of Canada, is angry over Health Canada exposing her and others as medical-marijuana patients. Right: A closeup of the envelope sent to Ottawa pot activist Russell Barth (his first name is Lorne). COURTESY LAURIE MACEACHERN

Tens of thousands of medical-marijuana patients across the country are receiving a mass mailing from Health Canada exposing them as medicinal-cannabis users, and many are now in panic mode.

The letter, which Health Canada says was sent to 40,000 people, comes in a white envelope, and has a return address with the words "Marihuana Medical Access Program" written across the top, followed by the patient's name and address. Many say their privacy has been violated and fear their houses may be robbed and their home growing gardens targeted.

"I'm outright panicked," said multiple-sclerosis patient Suzi Berardini, who also suffers from trigeminal neuralgia. She said the mailman who dropped the letter off "smirked" when he handed her the envelope. "It's terrifying. So many levels of terrifying."

Laurie MacEachern, who represents medical-marijuana patients as director of the Medicinal Cannabis Patients' Alliance of Canada, said she is "supremely" concerned about the information being released to the public.

"One patient said she got her mail and the delivery man said, 'I didn't know you smoked,'" said MacEachern.

MacEachern said previous letters did not have the word "marijuana" on it.

Almost a dozen other medical marijuana patients called Metro with similar concerns. Most weren't willing to comment on the record for fear of being exposed even further.

Health Canada deputy minister George Da Pont said the format of the mailing was the result of an "administrative error." He said the letters outlining changes to the Marihuana Medical Access Program, which take effect next spring, were sent to 40,000 patients.

"This is not standard Health Canada practice," he wrote in an email to Metro.

Expenses scandal. Senators feeling rattled by tale of PMO meddling

Rattled Conservative and Liberal senators say they're trying to come to terms with the RCMP's description of meddling by the Prime Minister's Office in the upper chamber's business.

The 80-page court filing by the Mounties became required reading around the Senate this week. Emails back and forth suggest Stephen Harper's staff and his top senators helped to manipulate a Senate committee and its report into former colleague Mike Duffy's contested living expenses. The group also tried to quash an independent audit commissioned by the Senate.

"I am a strong believer in the independence of the institution and I think it's something we're all going to have to reflect upon in terms of going forward and how that relationship (with elected officials) should be structured," Conservative Sen. Bob Runciman said Thursday.

Liberal senators are also reading the documents with interest, and considering if anything should be done on the floor of the Senate.

"I've read the documents. I find parts of them very disturbing indeed, but beyond that I don't really want to comment," said deputy Liberal Senate leader Joan Fraser.

"It's going to take a little while to work through all of this and figure out what the ultimate implications are."

Harper, who was in Lac-Mégantic, Que., on Thursday, said, "I've said many times that I told Mr. Duffy very clearly that I expected him to pay his own inappropriate expenses. That's what Mr. (Nigel) Wright said, that's what Mr. Duffy said publicly. When I learned the contrary in May, I took the necessary action."

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair mocked the response.

"In that case, there is really only one question: Since when does the prime minister of Canada have to approve a senator repaying his own expenses?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

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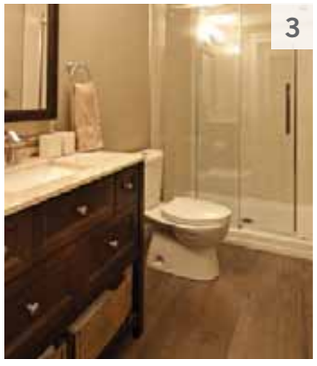

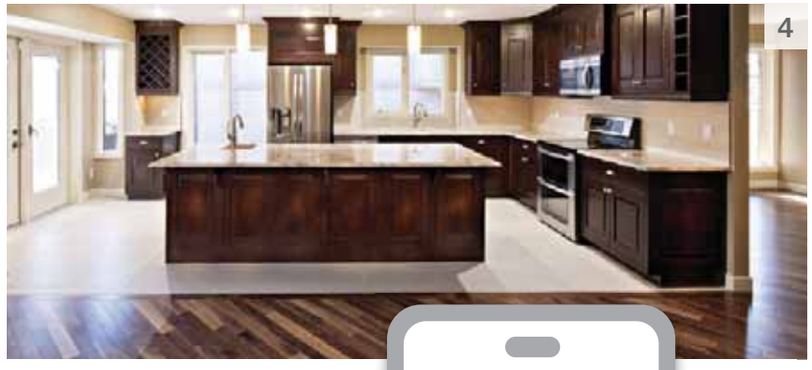

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Women freed from 30 years of captivity

Two suspects arrested, three victims rescued.
London police say domestic slavery possible motivation

Three women have been freed after spending 30 years held captive in a home in south London, England, including one woman believed to have spent her entire life in domestic slavery, police announced Thursday.

London's Metropolitan Police spoke about the rescues after two people — a man and a woman, both 67 — were arrested early Thursday on suspicion of forced labour and domestic servitude.

The arrests were part of a slavery investigation launched after one of the captives contacted a charity in October.

Kevin Hyland, of the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking unit, speaks to the media Thursday.
SKY TV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Those freed on Oct. 25 are a 69-year-old Malaysian woman, a 57-year-old Irish woman and a 30-year-old British woman, police said.

Police would not speculate on any possible motivation, name the suspects' nationalities or say if any of the suspects were a couple.

The revelations raised numerous questions — all still unanswered — about the women's ordeal.

The women — whose names have not been released — are now safe at an undisclosed location in Britain and have been working with severe trauma experts since their rescue, said Kevin Hyland, head of the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking unit.

Hyland said while the women had some "controlled freedom," police were still working to establish what sort of conditions they lived under for the past 30 years.

He said his unit, which deals with many cases of servitude and forced labour, had seen previous cases of people held for up to ten years.

"But we've never seen anything of this magnitude before," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holy smokes, a new island!

A volcano bursts off the water and throws up a tiny new island off the coast of Nishinoshima, a small, uninhabited island south of Tokyo. Japanese officials said Thursday they'd be happy to have a wee-bit more territory if the Pacific Ocean doesn't wash it away. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec

Police nab 28 in child porn bust

Quebec provincial police say they've arrested 28 men in a sweeping crackdown on online juvenile pornography.

Authorities have seized 28 computers and filed 61 charges, including possession, distribution and production of child pornography.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

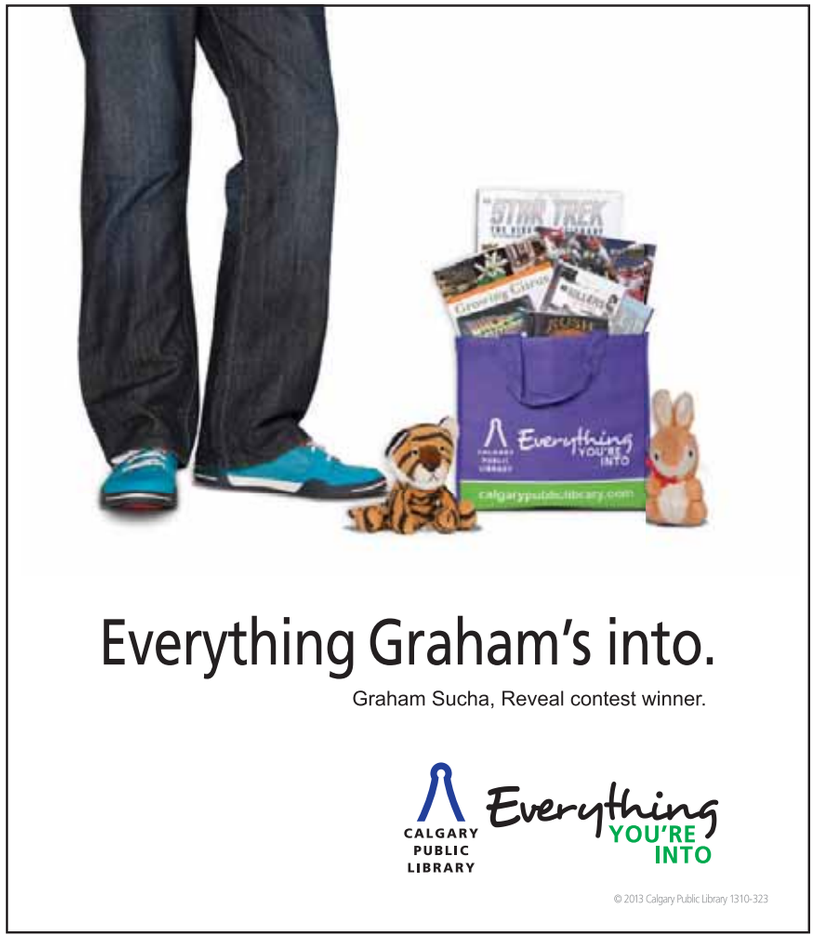
One last shot

Supreme Court to hear Quebec gun registry appeal

The Supreme Court of Canada agreed Thursday to hear a Quebec appeal to keep its provincial gun registry data.

Records of more than five million long guns in other provinces and territories were fully destroyed a year ago, but a series of court battles has preserved Quebec — the birthplace of the registry — as the last holdout.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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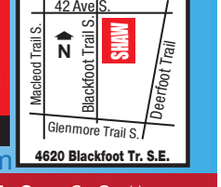

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Had transformed himself

Homeless veteran back in trouble

A homeless U.S. veteran whose makeover video has been viewed 15 million times online was arrested for causing a disturbance at a Burger King in Grand Rapids.

James Allen Wolf was arrested Sunday at the fast-food restaurant and pleaded guilty Monday to misdemeanour charges of trespassing and creating a disturbance. A judge ordered Wolf to serve 10 days in jail on each charge.

The time-lapse, videotaped makeover brought international attention to the 54-year-old veteran. Rob Bliss worked with Degage Ministries to bring about Wolf's physical transformation. The video shows an unkempt Wolf transform into a sharp-dressed, shaved man. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Knockout'

Punks playing a dangerous game

Police in New York, Washington and Jersey City are investigating whether recent random attacks on pedestrians are part of a violent game called knockout, where the goal is to target unsuspecting pedestrians and knock them unconscious with one punch.

Authorities say the game has been around for years, and it's played mostly by impulsive teenage boys. At least two deaths have been linked to the game this year. And in New York, a 78-year-old woman was punched in the head by a stranger and fell to the ground. In Washington, a 32-year-old woman was swarmed by teenagers and one hit her in the face. In Jersey City, a man, 46, died after someone punched him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accused Silk Road operator paid for six murders: D.A.

Ross Ulbricht in court in San Francisco. VICKI BEHRINGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ross Ulbricht. Accused drug website operator ordered held without bail; U.S. Attorney tells bail hearing he sent money to have six killed

A U.S. website operator lived a double life, portraying himself as an Internet trailblazer while leading a massive online drug empire and trying to arrange the killing of six people he thought were interfering in his business, a prosecutor said Thursday.

Ross William Ulbricht, 29, was ordered held without bail.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Serrin Turner said Ulbricht had spent most of three years "evading law enforcement, living a double life" while operating an underground website known as Silk Road, a black-market bazaar for cocaine, heroin and other drugs.

Turner said the website also offered malicious computer software and fake identification documents as several thousand vendors distributed goods to more than 100,000 customers.

Turner said Ulbricht sent $730,000 to others this year to carry out the killings of six people to silence witnesses and to protect him and his financial interests. In court papers, prosecutors said five murders were to take place in British Columbia. With the sixth person, Ulbricht was dealing with an undercover agent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Famed Silk Road website

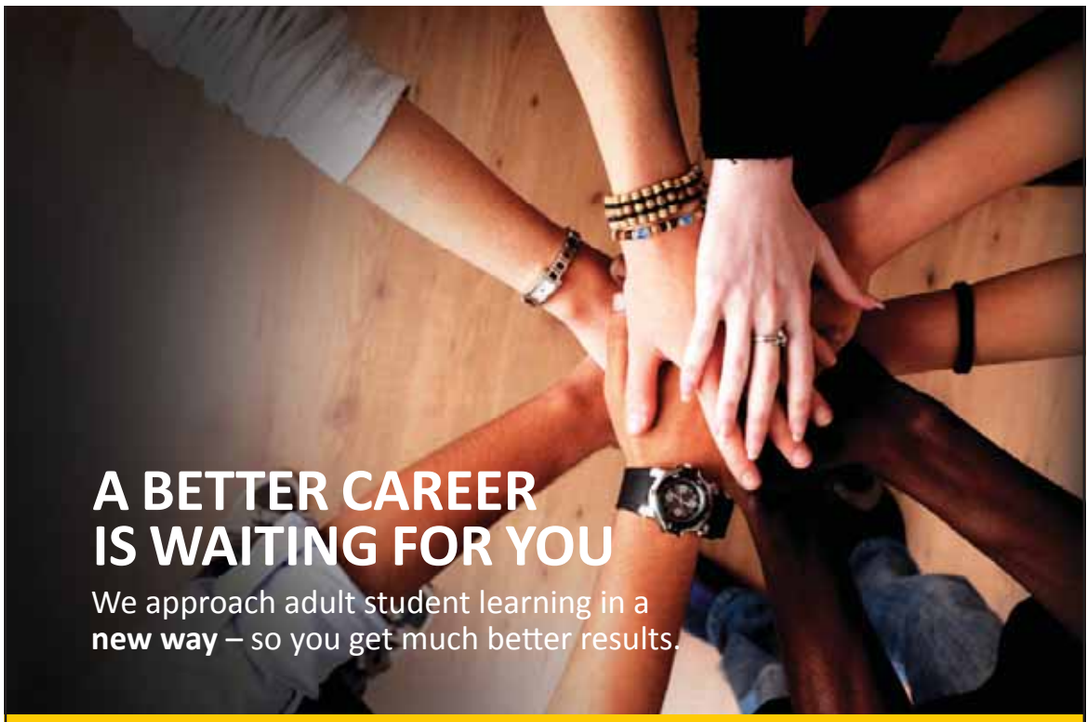
In court papers, prosecutors said five murders were to take place in British Columbia. With the sixth person, Ulbricht was dealing with an undercover agent, prosecutors said.

- Ulbricht was arrested Oct. 1 at a San Francisco public library, where he was swarmed by FBI agents who seized his computer.

Attempted murder-for-hire scheme

"Thankfully, it appears so far those murders did not happen."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Serrin Turner told a bail hearing for Ulbricht.
Turner said he wanted the killings of six people to silence witnesses and to protect him and his financial interests.



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Events to mark JFK's death

Half a century later. The 35th U.S. president was fatally shot on Nov. 22, 1963

The 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy will be marked by solemn events in multiple U.S. cities on Friday.

In Dallas, where Kennedy was shot while riding through the city on Nov. 22, 1963, a ceremony will include brief remarks by the mayor and the tolling of church bells.

In Boston, the JFK Library and Museum will open an exhibit of never-before-displayed items from Kennedy's state funeral and host a musical tribute that will be closed to the public.

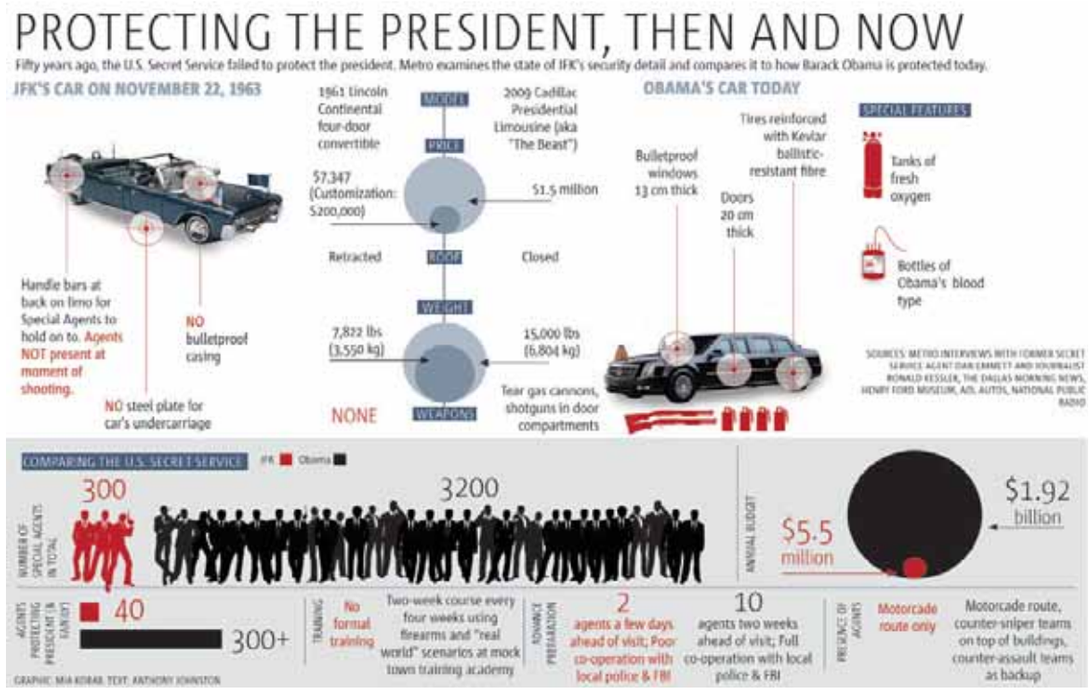
And in Washington, President Barack Obama will meet privately at the White House with leaders and volunteers from the Kennedy-established Peace Corps program.

About 5,000 tickets were issued for the ceremony in Dallas' Dealey Plaza, which is flanked by the Texas School Book Depository building where sniper Lee Harvey Oswald was perched in 1963.

Other events include a ceremony at Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy was declared dead, to lower the U.S. flag to half-staff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clare Calvin, left, touches up the wax figure of U.S. President John F. Kennedy at Madame Tussauds in London on Thursday. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadian Red Cross hospital opens in Philippines

A Canadian Red Cross emergency field hospital in the Philippines is open for business.

The facility is located in front of a damaged local hospital in the city of Ormoc, on the west coast of the island of Leyte.

The hospital was flooded by the typhoon and its roof was destroyed.

The Canadian facility is helping with surgery, medicine, maternal and child care and outpatient services.

Canadian Red Cross CEO Conrad Sauve says the hospital expects to handle 10 to 15 natural births and five or six Caesareans every day, as well as up to 300 outpatients.

"Our teams on the ground have been working around the clock to get the hospital going," said Sauve. "Now that this hospital is in place, we will be able to cover the health needs of a population of more than 100,000 people."

The facility opened as Canadian military aid efforts continue on the island of Panay, farther to the west.

Canadian Griffon helicopters have made their first forays to bring aid to isolated communities and outlying islands.

Two water purification units, each of which can produce up to 50,000 litres of drinking water every day, are in operation.

Three more of the units are expected to be in place in a few days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Court stands by Silvio Berlusconi's conviction

Sex charges. Former PM's conviction, seven year sentence and lifetime political ban explained; proof of intercourse not needed

The Milan court that convicted Silvio Berlusconi of paying an underage prostitute for sex at his infamous Bunga Bunga parties said Thursday that proof of intercourse wasn't necessary to find him guilty.

The court, in a 326-page document supporting the June 24 conviction, seven-year jail sentence and lifetime political ban, said all it needed was evidence that the former premier's "sexual instincts" were stimulated in exchange for payment.

The court noted that the Moroccan teen at the centre of the scandal, Karima el-Mahroug, better known as Ruby, received $3,000 cash every time she attended a party, plus jewelry and a lump sum of 57,000 euros apparently to assist her in starting a business.

The filing of the court's reasoning paves the way for Berlusconi's defence to appeal the verdict and sentence. It also comes just a week before the Senate is expected to vote on whether to expel him on the basis of a tax-fraud conviction that was confirmed this summer by Italy's highest court.

Berlusconi, who has no role in government, has been weakened by the judicial woes as well as his failed attempt to bring down the government last month. In a bid to recoup his past glory, Berlusconi has relaunched the Forza Italia party that catapulted him to power two decades ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karima el-Mahroug, better known as Ruby, is escorted by police in May outside Milan's Law courts. LUCA BRUNO, FILES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greenpeace. Two Canadians granted bail in Russia, but pair not free yet

The two Canadians who were among 30 people arrested in Russia following a Greenpeace protest in the Arctic now have been granted bail.

Greenpeace spokesman Diego Creimer said Thursday that Alexandre Paul of Montreal had won bail, but said that both he and Paul Ruzycki of Port Colborne, Ont., who was granted bail Tuesday, have not yet been released.

Paul's mother, Nicole Paul, released a statement through Greenpeace on Thursday welcoming the news he had been granted bail. "I'm so happy that my son is going to be out of jail soon ... I'm so proud of him." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greenpeace activist Alexandre Paul in court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London's Tube

24-hr service soon on some routes

London's subway system is planning to introduce 24-hour service on the weekends on some lines under new plans that will involve closing all ticket offices and cutting 750 jobs by 2015.

The transport authority said staff will be taken out of ticket offices and based elsewhere. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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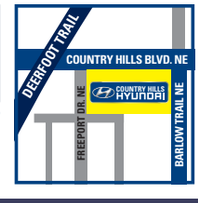

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Market Minute

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Random biz fact of the day

39%

39 per cent of employers have jobs that stay open four months or longer due to the inability to find people with the appropriate skills.
CAREERBUILDER

Build it and they will come: Kano computer kit catches on

Coder Matt Keegan, right, with Kano team member Nathan Miller, and the core components. METRO WORLD NEWS

DIY. The $99 product surpasses Kickstarter target, with backers including the Woz

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

"Search for the white rabbit," Kano challenges me, providing clues as to where the animal might be. Mere minutes ago, the sleek, orange-fringed computer was a collection of flat-packed components in a box, but with minimal fuss it has been brought to life, taught to recognize its owner, and now it wants to play.

Built around the Raspberry Pi — a no-frills computer on a single circuit board — the Kano promises to make us all creative technologists. It is the product of a London computing startup of the same name, and a challenge from company founder Alex Klein's cousin Micah, aged 7, who wanted computer design to be "like Lego." The final product can be pieced together in 107 seconds, costs $99, and has generated enough excitement to crowd-fund almost triple the original target of $100,000 within 48 hours, with funders including Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, a.k.a. the Woz.

The full kit. COURTESY OF KANO

"There has been a tension between the specialists and users," says Kano coder Matt Keegan, playing a simple game he has just built on the device. "We want to lower the barrier to entry and empower children."

The machine can serve many functions of a regular laptop — web browsing, correspondence — but the main appeal lies in teaching non-experts how computers work "under the hood." Users can code and design software, aided by a child-friendly guidebook that explains every step.

Quoted

"We want to lower the barrier to entry and empower children."

Kano coder Matt Keegan

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Smart TVs sparking privacy concerns

Claim. A British IT consultant says LG is collecting viewing habits without consent

LG Electronics Inc. said it is investigating a claim that some of its smart TVs send information on home viewing habits back to the company without consent.

The investigation comes after Jason Huntley, a 45-year-old IT consultant in Britain, detailed in his blog how his LG smart TV logged the channels he was watching and sent the data to LG.

He said the company continued to collect which channel he was watching even after he disabled the information collection feature.

"The (LG) server acknowledges the successful receipt of this information back to the TV," he said in an email. The information appeared to be sent to LG unencrypted, he said.

Also collected were the names of files saved in an external USB hard drive plugged into the TV as well as the TV's unique identification information.

LG said Thursday that customer privacy is its top priority.

"All we can be sure of is that the information is being sent," Huntley said.

He said was "very surprised" at the amount of attention he received with the blog post.

"This indicates that privacy issues are becoming increasingly important to people everywhere, as we are so dependent on technology in our everyday lives."

Separately, Samsung Electronics Co. said it does not collect information on files in USB hard drives connected to its smart TVs. But it did not respond to a question about whether it logs users' viewing habits. Samsung is the world's largest TV maker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LG said it is investigating a claim that some of its smart TVs send information on viewing habits back to LG without consent. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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The 1 per cent. Thomson, Weston family fortunes see double-digit growth

The Thomson and Weston families have seen double-digit growth in their net worth since last year, according to an annual ranking of Canada's wealthiest people.

Canadian Business magazine estimates the Thomson family's net worth has grown to 26.1 billion, up 30 per cent from $20.1 billion last year.

The Thomson family has long topped annual lists of Canada's most wealthy people.

Among its major holdings is Thomson Reuters, a public company that delivers professional information to several industries, and the private Woodbridge Co., majority owner of the Globe and Mail.

No. 2 on the list with a net worth of $10.4 billion is Galen Weston, whose son Galen Jr., heads the Loblaw grocery business. The Weston fortune is up 24 per cent from last year's estimate of $8.2 billion.

The Irving family, which owns Atlantic Canada's largest chain of gasoline stations, a major oil refinery, shipbuilding yard and other businesses, continues at No. 3 with an estimated worth of $7.85 billion, down three per cent from $8.07 billion.

The rich are getting richer

30%

The Thomson family's net worth has risen 30 per cent to $26.1 billion this year from $20.1 billion last year, Canadian Business magazine estimates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Popular pinboard

The 'Place Pin' marks your spot on Pinterest

Pinterest, the online pinboard for sharing everything from wedding china ideas to travel inspiration, is now letting users add location to their pins.

San Francisco-based Pinterest says that its "Place Pins" were designed to "combine all the beautiful imagery of a travel magazine with the utility of a map and put it all online so you can share it with friends." The new feature is available on Pinterest's website and on the latest version of its mobile apps.

Pinterest says there are more than 750 million travel-related pins on the site already. With the new location-based pins, users will be able to create maps for friends visiting from out of town, or vacation spots they want to see.

Pinterest launched the location tool with a slew of boards from travel sites, magazines and companies to serve as examples on how they could be used. Conde Nast Traveler magazine, for example, created a map called the "Top 100 Hotels in the World," while Fest 300 pinned one called "The World's Best Festivals." Many of the place pins include addresses, phone numbers and other useful information. According to comScore, Pinterest has more than 53 million monthly users. The San Francisco-based company is privately held and is only testing the waters of generating revenue. The startup's latest round of financing, $225 million US, valued it at nearly $4 billion US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The shift to temporary employment isn't just happening in Canada. The U.S. is witnessing the same trend.

• America added 913,200 temporary workers since the end of the recession in June 2009 (19 per cent of all new jobs), bringing the number to a total of 2.66 million in April. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

• Hiring for permanent full-time workers over the second half of 2013 will remain stagnant and will be consistent with the same period in 2012, according to CareerBuilder, LLC's Mid-year Job Forecast prediction.

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

Past less litigious: Bosses

Lawsuits en route?

A recent survey shows that 69.5 per cent of employers believe Canadian workers are more likely to sue their employers now compared to five years ago. PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

Temp Recalls the Zombie Walk

I think the AmQex protest got so much press because the zombies that the cops handcuffed and dragged away left behind a wicked trail of slime and body parts.

Andy Kimura, the firm's third partner, was looking at YouTube over my shoulder and said, "I must say, Shannon, bodily remains really look great online." Andy was still woozy from jetlag after being quarantined for bird flu at Beijing Airport.

"Mr. Kimura, shouldn't you be showing the Chinese folks around while they measure stuff?"

"Not me. I'm Japanese."

"Genetically maybe."

"But my name certainly is, and the Chinese aren't so hot on Japan."

I said, "Hey, check this out — Sarah from marketing got 15 seconds with the Channel 3 Roving Reporter." To be honest, I've no idea what Sarah said. All I remember is her trademarked casual hair flip as she smiled while behind her lay a left leg covered in red corn syrup and vinyl black flies.

"Poor Sarah," said Andy. "Today's her last day."

Oh God. "Seriously?"

"That's life, Shannon. As we speak our new Chinese owners are measuring the staff lunchroom with a laser level. We are not a company that is in need of a head of marketing."

"Oh Sarah, I barely knew ye. Does she know it yet?"

"After lunch."

"Life sucks."

It was weird having every single surface of the building measured by quiet, methodical people speaking a mystery language. What made it especially odd was how they didn't really seem to notice or interact with the people in the building. It was like they were taking measurements inside a photograph, not a real building. Two guys in the meeting room were assembling a 3D model of the building using data brought in by the measurers.

I found myself missing Mr. Shoeman terribly. I decided to phone him in Beijing, and seeing country code 86 on my desktop phone put me in a better mood. I hoped he hadn't forgotten our plans for the future.

"Hello, Mr. Xu?"

"Hi, hello, yes, whatever — whoever this is, I'm getting a reflexology right now and need to focus my qi energy."

"Mr. Shoeman, it's me, Shannon."

"Ah. Sweetest lily of decadent western imperialism."

The zombies that the cops handcuffed and dragged away left behind a wicked trail of slime and body parts.

"Shoeman, I miss you. When are you coming back?"

"Me so sorry — not understand."

I giggled: "You're still such a dick."

"Hang in there, sweetheart."

"What about our secret plan?"

"Our secret plan goes into operation within a few days."

"You promise?"

"I promise." I hung up the phone and turned around to find Andy Kimura and the two remaining Sarahs. "Secret plan?" said Andy. "So Dan wasn't just being paranoid."

"Imagine that," said Sarah No. 1 with as much righteousness as she could muster, "A traitor right here from within."

Andy said, "I think you'd better leave, Shannon."

TO BE CONTINUED...

Random fact of the day

- Roughly 1,600 people per year are bitten by other humans in New York City.

SOURCE: FACTHUT.COM

Random biz fact of the day

50%

Horrible bosses beware — 50 per cent of job seekers will tell their friends about a bad experience with an employer.

SOURCE: NEXCAREER

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BEANPOLE BIRDS, BUSTED BIEBS BASH

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 Civic doody. Ever notice how Rob Ford looks like a giant toddler? Just close your eyes and picture him in an Argos onesie. Then, ask him to leave daddy's office and his body goes limp until you're forced to drag him kicking and screaming. See? One big baby. With a tiny crack-pipe.

2 Ironic integrity. German recluse Cornelius Gurlitt is upset that authorities seized paintings inherited from his father Hildebrand, who was Hitler's personal art dealer and once chief of the Nazi's "confiscation committee." Cornelius maintains that no part of his billion-dollar collection was ill-gotten from Jewish owners. He tells Der Spiegel magazine, "Maybe my father was offered things privately but he wouldn't have taken it. He would consider that wrong." Oh, *that* he would have considered wrong.

3 Gobble-less. Butterball announced a shortage of turkeys right before American thanksgiving. More precisely, the birds have not been gaining weight to reach the 16-pound minimum expected by U.S. clientele. The turkeys attribute their success to increased cardio consisting of high-volume reps of wing-flapping. And their lean muscle-mass makes them harder to catch.

4 Win-win. Renowned "momager" and pimper of offspring Kris Jenner says daughter Kim and Kanye West will "hopefully" marry next year. Unless they break up. Either way, it will be filmed and marketed for profit.

5 Slam dunk. Since June of 2012, NBA centre Andrew Bynum has collected almost $20 million for playing less than two cumulative hours of actual professional ball. How much more does your job suck now?

6 Bieber breach. Justin Bieber threw an anything-goes, Great Gatsby bash last week that was so wild, the cops were called three times. But VIP guests will have only themselves with which to reminisce because they all signed confidentiality agreements worth $3 million. The very next night, I got a henna tattoo at a bar mitzvah that still hasn't washed off. Who's the bad-ass now?

7 It takes two. Or does it? We-Vibe, the company behind body-safe, eco-friendly, "intimate" products believes that couples who play together stay together. Now they've launched We-Vibe4: a remote-controlled, U-shaped vibrator that simultaneously stimulates "inside and out" including pleasure for the male. The result of extensive scientific research on monogamous pairings, there still lies the unspoken understanding that his presence is entirely optional.

8 Mentor experience. Attention unsigned Canadian singer-songwriters of legal age: Here's a great opportunity. Submit a video entry of your work to songwritermentor-experience.org for a chance to receive valuable insight from some of our nation's greatest artists, plus additional benefits including a one-year, paid membership to the Songwriters Association. In traditional Canuck fashion, there's no prize money or recording contract, but all criticism promises to be very polite.

9 This week in music. In 2004, Ozzy Osbourne fought one of two burglars robbing his Buckinghamshire home. Breaking free of Ozzy's headlock, the man jumped 30 feet from a window. When asked about the danger of getting hurt, Osbourne replied "I haven't felt anything since 1979." The burglar, answering that same question said, "I seriously thought he was going to bite my head off!"

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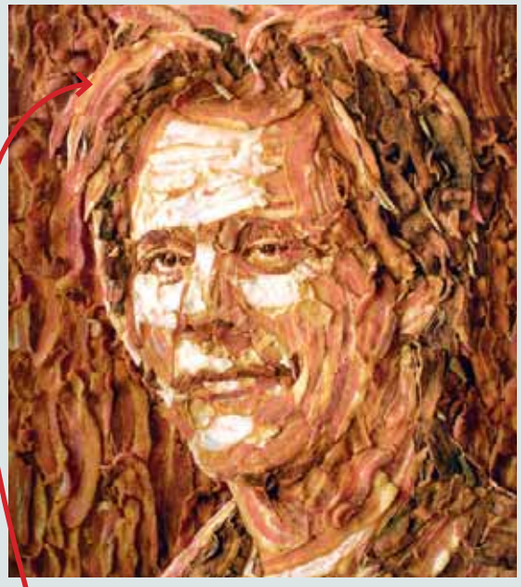
ZOOM

Artist also has enough to eat at home



COURTESY JASON MECIER

And it's rice to get food for thought

An artist has used various types of food to create delightful portraits of famous people.

Jason Mecier, from San Francisco, used strips of bacon and rice to portray actor Kevin Bacon and former U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, respectively.

The choice of material provides a visual pun of their surnames. Mecier tries his best to preserve his food-based works, but so far it only works out for some.

Mecier's works feature in a new book, Wild Art, which celebrates non-traditional creativity like sand sculptures, extreme body art and miniature dioramas. METRO

Some rare delicacies

"I enjoy trying to match the perfect items and themes with the essence of each unique subject: Snoop Dogg made out of marijuana and Sigmund Freud made out of pills."

Jason Mecier, artist

He plays with his food

50 hours

is how long Mecier takes to make each portrait. His picture of Lady Gaga took almost two months to finish.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

That unmistakable chill in the air is turning our minds to far off, sun-soaked climes where we can briefly recover from winter's darkest days. If your strategy is to miss as much of that winter as possible, these travel blogs are well stocked with dollar-stretching tips.

ISTOCK IMAGES

Nomadic Matt:

Have you ever returned from a long vacation and cursed your re-entry into routine, dreaming of a life on the lam instead? Of course you have. So did Matt Kepnes, except he's one of those maddening types who actually pulled it off, compiling nearly 10 years of accumulated world-wandering wisdom in one place. (nomadicmatt.com)

Traveller's Point:

While there are some pretty cool features here, like a travel planner widget and budget accommodation search, the real prize here are the lively and friendly forums. No matter what country you're planning to hit, or what (within reason) you're willing to do there, there's an abundance of advice and potential travel buddies here. (travellerspoint.com)

Adventurous Kate:

Another hero who managed to quit her job and take up the mantle of a full-time traveller. With plenty of world-savvy and 35 countries under her belt, the wildly entertaining Kate is an ideal source for the solo female traveller. (adventurouskate.com)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: One mom was surprised when a daycare called her kids' lunches 'unhealthy' and gave them crackers. How would you react?

@Canucklehead_ca: By quickly finding a new daycare, provided I have the energy after presumably years of unhealthy eating.

@ctmwyn: 'healthy' is a slippery slope where some overly zealous parents insist on a #RawFood diet for their kid #Education #WorkBothWays

@les_than_zero: Because adding transfat Ritz crackers to the lunch suddenly made it healthy?

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Send us your comments: calgaryletters@metronews.ca

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Synopsis

Combatants and sweethearts Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) have returned victorious from the 74th Annual Hunger Games. While on a Victory Tour to Panem's various downtrodden districts, revolution is in the air. The people see Katniss as a symbol of freedom, which, of course, doesn't sit well with President Snow (Donald Sutherland), the country's autocratic leader. To quell the revolution he and his head gamesmaker (Philip Seymour Hoffman) devise the trickiest Hunger Games yet, the Quarter Quell that will pit former winners against one another in the battle to the death.

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●●○○

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire is styled within an inch of its life, but it maintains a gritty edge. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Two is better than one

Catching Fire. The followup to the Hunger Games is a step above the first instalment, with more visual and thematic grit

Richard: Mark, I'm glad I saw the first Hunger Games movie because I'm not sure if I would have a clue as to what was going on if I didn't have that background. I may have been taken in by the beautiful art direction, or Jennifer Lawrence's intense performance, but I don't think I would have been able to connect all the dots. Plot points become more obvious in the second hour, but for non-Hungerites it might be confusing. What did you think?

Mark: I don't think anyone who didn't see the first one would even be interested in seeing the second instalment. So the question becomes: how do they compare? And surprisingly, I kind of prefer the sequel. The issues of state control, of media manipulation, and of income disparity are sharper and less cartoonish here. But more important, the secondary characters are more interesting and better drawn. Some of the contestants are intriguing, like Jeffrey Wright's techno-nerd, and his partner Amanda Plummer, doing her nutso thing. I even liked Elizabeth Banks and Stanley Tucci this time around — the characters seemed more grounded in the story.

RC: I do think this is a better movie than the first instalment. It is set decorated and costumed to within an inch of its life, but nonetheless has a gritty edge. It doesn't feel like a budget big franchise movie and that's a good thing. Visually as well as thematically it has more edge than any of the recent Marvel movies. And it skirts around the thing that upset many people about the first movie — the idea of kids killing kids — by setting the action between former victors ranging in age from in their 20s to in their 70s.

MB: You know what else it skirts around? The killings themselves, many of which happen off-screen, to protect the delicate psyches of our tweener population. But that's OK; this isn't really a film about body count. The only thing that left me queasy was the cliffhanger ending, with a plot twist that will seem arbitrary until we catch the next instalment.

RC: The cliffhanger ending is a bit of a shock after the almost two-and-a-half hour running time, but I felt as though enough had happened to keep me interested for the next one.

MB: And I think the next one may show Woody Harrelson to be the trilogy's most valuable player.

Making Frozen thaws the battle of the sexes

Female perspective. Male and female co-directors ensured Disney film didn't tread into stereotypes

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Frozen opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

The new animated film Frozen features something unique — dueling Disney princesses.

"I think what was really important for this movie was to have the female perspective," says co-director Chris Buck.

"We have two female leads and there are times that as a male director you can go to the stereotype of what a female character might do."

That's where co-director and writer Jennifer Lee came in. "Jen would always take it to a different place," he says. "She would say, 'Make her real. Make her believable.' So I think that really helped. It was a good balance."

Based on a Danish fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, Frozen is the story of two royal sisters, Anna, a spirited adventurer (Kristen Bell) and Elsa, a queen (Idina Menzel) with the awesome power to create ice and snow. Sibling is pitted against sibling when Elsa plunges her kingdom into an endless winter and Anna must act to save her sister and the empire. "You want to make these movies to last forever but we have to bring ourselves to it," says Buck. "We have to bring today's sense of entertainment and character to our characters."

"We're huge Disney fans and I grew up with Disney," says Lee. "When you watch a Disney film you are constantly feeling it. It is a combination of comedy and drama but it is together in such a way that you feel you are in the world. That is something we both love more than anything because that, to me, is what makes them timeless and resonate. You feel the character and you feel the stakes. You relate to them. I think Disney does that better than anyone."

Buck says that one of the big challenges in making Frozen was creating a movie for not "just the Disney family but also for the general audience, for everyone of all ages.

"I feel more than anything, a responsibility not to necessarily the company but to the audience," says Buck. "To the audience who comes in expecting a Disney movie and giving them the best of that. What does that mean to them? It's humour and emotion and beauty and all of that. For me, that's the pressure.

The feminine touch

"I think what was really important for this movie was to have the female perspective."

Frozen co-director Chris Buck on working with Jennifer Lee on the film

"I was speaking to a live action director who does more movies in the PG-13 and R-rated realm and he said, 'What you guys do is the hardest thing in the world because you try and reach everyone.'"

Disney. Looking back at a legacy for new ideas

Get A Horse is the first original Mickey Mouse cartoon in almost 20 years. CONTRIBUTED

An "everything old is new again" theme emerges when looking at the slate of upcoming Disney films.

A titan in Hollywood and one of the largest media conglomerates in the world, the Mouse House is looking back at their rich history in a very interesting way.

For instance, Get a Horse, the dazzling new short that plays before Frozen in theatres, is the first original Mickey Mouse theatrical cartoon in almost two decades.

But more than simply being a reintroduction to a beloved character, it's also a deft marriage of old and new techniques that features, through some technical wizardry, the first vocal performance from Walt Disney since the 1960s.

In the live action roster there's the Oscar hopeful Saving Mr. Banks, the story of the making of the classic Mary Poppins, and Tomorrowland, an epic sci-fi saga that was allegedly inspired by the contents of a mysterious box found in the Disney archives.

The 90-year-old company has one eye on the past and the other very much on the future.

"We like to think of our legacy as a springboard to the future and not something that anchors us so you can't move your feet," says Walt Disney Animation Studios general manager and executive vice-president Andrew Millstein.

"There is a great wealth of characters and visual material, but in its day the best of Disney was innovative and moved with audiences. We should do the same."

So what should audiences anticipate from Disney in the next few years? Millstein says audiences should, "expect the unexpected."

"We have to be fiercely original. We have to give audiences things they haven't seen before. We want to surprise audiences. We want our stories to be compelling, the worlds to be great, the technology and the visuals to be stunning."

RICHARD CROUSE

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Coogan on ratings and writing the truth

Philomena. Actor talks about journalism and his MPAA struggles

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Philomena opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Steve Coogan has been enjoying near-universal positive reception for Philomena, the true-life tale he co-wrote, produced and stars in with Judi Dench about a woman trying to track down the baby a group of nuns forced her to give up as a teen. But that adulation train hit a snag in the U.S., where the film was initially given an R-rating by the MPAA for two instances of the F-word. We spoke with Coogan just hours after that decision was reversed.

Congratulations on your MPAA victory.
They reversed their decision after we appealed, and I was there as a producer of the film putting the case for reappraising the rating. It was myself and Bert Fields — he's one of the hotshot Hollywood lawyers. ... They listened to our arguments and we convinced a two-thirds majority, which is what's required amongst the panel of people who can challenge the original rating.

Has your opinion of journalists changed at all after playing one in this?
My opinion of journalists was never bad. That's a myth put about by some journalists trying to undermine me, and it's kind of a part of a campaign by certain journalists who have an agenda to be reductive about the whole thing and make it that I don't. When actually in fact I love journalists. I admire journalists who plow through a lot of crap to get to the truth. But there are some journalists who are not really interested in the truth. They're just interested in shifting units and getting a pat on the back from their editors who just want to sell units to satisfy proprietors who want to satisfy shareholders, and it's not really anything to do with getting to the truth.

Drama

Dallas Buyers Club

Director. Jean-Marc Vallee

Stars. Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto

Matthew McConaughey plays Ronnie Woodruff, a Texan oil rig electrician diagnosed with HIV. His search for a cure leads to a non-FDA approved holistic approach and with the help of cross-dresser Rayon (Jared Leto), he establishes the Dallas Buyers Club where customers pay $400 monthly in return for unlimited access to Woodruff's stash of illegal but effective concoctions. At the core are dual powerhouse performances from McConaughey and Leto.
RICHARD CROUSE

Comedy

Delivery Man

Director. Ken Scott

Stars. Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt, Cobie Smulders

Vince Vaughn stars in this almost shot-for-shot remake of the French Canadian film Starbuck as a man-child who learns commitment and responsibility after discovering his sperm bank donations unwittingly made him the father of 533 children, 142 of whom have filed a class action lawsuit to learn their biological father's real identity. Supporting actors Chris Pratt, Cobie Smulders and Bobby Moynihan are all solid, but it's Vaughn who carries the movie. He hands in a charming performance with all the rough edges buffed away in an unabashedly sweet movie. **RICHARD CROUSE**

Comedy/Romance

Austenland

Director. Jerusha Hess

Stars. Keri Russell, Jane Seymour

Fandom makes people do weird things. In Austenland, Jane Hayes (Keri Russell) blows her savings on a Jane Austen "experience" run by Jane Seymour in a bid to meet her own Mr. Darcy. Predictably, things don't pan out and Jane finds herself caught in a modern Pride and Prejudice situation, held back by her social status and falling for the wrong guy. It's a clever setup, but writer-director Jerusha Hess can't seem to break out of the rote romantic-comedy box. Worse, the jokes fail to yield any laughs.
IAN GORMELY

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2 Guns (14A) Fri-Thu 4:15-6:55-9:55
Despicable Me 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20
Don Jon (18A) Fri-Thu 7:30-9:40
Elysium (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55
Enough Said (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:30
The Fifth Estate (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-9:45
Insidious: Chapter 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:45-9:35
Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:10
Planes (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7
Prisoners (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-8-9:20
The Smurfs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:40
Turbo (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:15
We're the Millers (14A) Fri 3:50-7:05-9:45 Sat-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:05-9:45

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 12:50-3:50-7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:50-7-10:10 Mon-Tue 12:40-3:50-6:50-10 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-10
About Time (14A) Fri 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:45 Sat 1:15-5:20-6:55-9:45 Sun 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:05-6:55-9:50
Barney's Great Adventure (G) Sat 11
Delivery Man (PG) No Passes Fri 1:55-5:05-7:40-10:25 No Passes Sat 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:40-10:25 No Passes Sun 2:25-5:05-7:40-10:25 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:50-4:55-7:40-10:10 No Passes Wed 4:55-7:40-10:10 No Passes Thu 1:50-4:55-7:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Ender's Game (PG) Fri 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:20-4:15-7:10-9:55 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:15-9:55
Free Birds (G) Fri-Sun 1:05 Mon-Thu 1
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:20 Mon-Thu 3:25
Frozen (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-4
Frozen 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:05-9:40
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 2:05-5:10-7:25-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:25-7:20-9:35
Homefront (14A) Wed-Thu 2:10-5:05-7:30-10:05
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri 12:45-1:35-3:30-4-5-6:15-6:45-7:15-8:15-9:30-10-10:30 No Passes Sat 10-12:15-12:45-1:45-3:30-4-5-6:15-6:45-7:15-8:15-9:30-10-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:15-12:45-1:45-3:30-4-5-6:15-6:45-7:15-8:15-9:30-10-10:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 12:30-1:30-3:15-3:45-4:45-6-6:30-7-8-9:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Wed 9:45-12:30-3:15-3:45-4:45-6-6:30-7-8-9:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:30-1:30-3:15-3:45-4:45-6-6:30-7-8-9:15-9:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri 3:10-5:25-8-10:15 Sat 12:55-3:10-8-10:15 Sun 12:55-3:10-5:30-8-10:15 Mon-Tue 2:10-5:05-7:50-10:05
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 12:55-3:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40 Mon-Tue 12:50-3:35
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 6:25-9:15 Mon-Tue 6:20-9:25 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:35-10:20 Fri 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:35 Sat 11:10-2:05-4:50-7:50-10:35 Sun 2:05-4:50-7:50-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20
Vermeer and Music: The Art of Love and Leisure (G) Sat 4

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade

About Time (14A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
The Book Thief (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 5:40-8:40
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:40 Mon 9 Tue 5:40-8:40
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:50-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri 6:50-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:20-9

Empire Studio 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd.

12 Years a Slave (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:05-3:20-6:40-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:20-6:40-9:55
About Time (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:10-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:15
Bhaji in Problem (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Sun 12-3:10-6:15-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 3:10-6:15-9:20
The Book Thief (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:10-6:25-9:40
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:40
Delivery Man (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-4:05-6:45-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:05-6:45-9:30
Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor 3D (STC) No Passes Mon 7:30
Ender's Game (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:50-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:45-6:50-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3-10
Free Birds (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-3:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:10
Frozen (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:40-10:20
Frozen 3D (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7
Gori Tere Pyaar Mein (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Wed 3-6:30-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Thu 3-6-9:50
Homefront (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:40-6:35-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-12:25-12:30-3:05-3:40-3:50-6:10-6:30-7-7:10-9:40-10-10:20-10:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 3:05-3:40-3:50-6:10-6:30-7:10-7:10-9:40-10-10:20-10:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 3:05-3:40-3:50-6:10-6:30-7-7:10-9:40-10-10:20-10:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:05-3:50-6:10-6:30-7:10-9:40-10-10:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — The IMAX Experience (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-10:10
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 6:15-9:30
Last Vegas (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 6-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 10:30 Oldboy (18A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30-6:25-10
Ram-Leela (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Sun 1:20-6-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 6-9:35
Thor: The Dark World (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-6:50-9:50 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:05-4:15-7:15-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15

Empire Studio 10 MacLeod Trail 100-16061 MacLeod Trail

The Book Thief (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12-3:10-6:30-9:30
Captain Phillips (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:50
Delivery Man (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:30-10:10
Ender's Game (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 7-10
Free Birds (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1-4
Frozen (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4-9:40
Frozen 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-7
Homefront (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:45-4:15-7:15-10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 11:15-12:15-12:45-2:45-3:45-4:15-6:15-8-8:30-9:45 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 11:15-12:15-2:45-3:45-6:15-8-9:45 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45-3:15-6:45-10:15
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30
Last Vegas (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12-3-6:30-9:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:20-10:20

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 12:45-4-7:10-10:20 Sat 1-4-7:10-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:45-4-7:10-10:20
About Time (14A) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:50-7:25-10:25 Wed 12:35-3:50-7:25 Thu 3:50-7:25-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Barney's Great Adventure (G) Sat 11
The Big Lebowski (14A) Mon 7 Wed 9:30
The Book Thief (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-3:30-7:05-10:15
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri 3:40-6:50-10:15 Sat 6:50-10:15 Sun 2:30-6:50-10:15 Mon-Tue 3:40-6:50-10:15
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Tue 12
Delivery Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:55-4-7:05-9:45 No Passes Wed 12:55-4:05-7:05-9:45 No Passes Thu 4:05-7:05-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

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More saving. More doing.

SPECIAL BUY SAVE $20
825 TIP COUNT
$78.88 WAS $98.88
6-1/2' Noble Fir Pre-Lit Multi-Colour Light Artificial Christmas Tree • 350 multi-colour lights (1000673144) Clear (1000660856)

SPECIAL BUY SAVE $30
1,769 TIP COUNT
$249 WAS $279
MARTHA STEWART LIVING™ 7-1/2' Snowy Pine Pre-Lit Artificial Christmas Tree • 750 READY-LIT® clear lights (1000740979)
EXCLUSIVE MARTHA STEWART LIVING

SPECIAL BUY SAVE $50
2,073 TIP COUNT
$299 WAS $349
7-1/2' Just Cut Medium Fraser Fir Clear Pre-Lit Artificial Tree • 750 clear lights (1000687276)

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THIS WEEK ONLY
Valid until Wednesday, November 27, 2013
While quantities last.

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4' Pre-Lit Regent Potted Tree • 100 clear mini lights (1000686268)

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230 TIP COUNT
$59.95 WAS $69.95
MARTHA STEWART LIVING™ 4' Potted Pre-Lit Artificial Christmas Tree • 100 clear mini lights (1000662513)
EXCLUSIVE MARTHA STEWART LIVING

SPECIAL BUY SAVE $20
256 TIP COUNT
$59.97 WAS $79.97
MARTHA STEWART LIVING™ 4' Bennet Pine Potted Pre-Lit Artificial Christmas Tree • 100 clear lights (1000673145)
EXCLUSIVE MARTHA STEWART LIVING

SPECIAL BUY SAVE $20
127 TIP COUNT
$69.86 WAS $89.86
MARTHA STEWART LIVING™ 4' Sparkling Pine Entrance Tree • 70 clear lights (1000740980)
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Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor 3D (STC) Sat 12:50 Mon 7:30-9:45
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:55 Mon 1-3:45-9:55 Tue 1-3:45-7-9:55 Wed 1-3:45-6:30-10:30 Thu 1-3:45-6:55-9:55
Free Birds (G) Fri-Tue 12:10
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3-6:55-9:30 Mon 3-6:55 Tue 3-6:55-9:30
Frozen (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10
Frozen 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 3:20-7:15-10
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:05 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:30-10:05
Homefront (14A) Wed-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:20-9:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-2-3:45-5:15-7-8:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Tue 12-2-3:15-5:15-6:30-8:30-9:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 No Passes Fri-Sat 10:30-12-1:45-3:15-5-6:30-8:15-9:45-11:30 No Passes Sun 10-11-1:15-2:45-4:30-6-7:45-9:15-11 No Passes Mon-Thu 1-1:30-4:15-4:45-7:30-8-10:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 10-1:15-4:30-7:45-11 No Passes Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:15
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:35 Wed-Thu 1-3:20-7:25-10:10
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:50-5:25-8:05-10:45 Sun 12:15-2:50-10:45 Mon-Tue 12:15-2:50-5:25-8:05-10:45 Wed-Thu 12:40-4:10-7:35-10:20
Oldboy (18A) Wed-Thu 12:25-3:40-7:35-10:25
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:10 Thu 1-4:20-7:15-10:10
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 11:15-11:45-2-2:30-4:50-5:20-7:40-8:10-10:30-11 Sat 11:45-2:30-4:50-5:20-7:40-8:10-10:30-11 Sun 11:15-11:45-2-2:30-4:50-5:20-7:40-8:10-10:30-11 Mon 11:45-2-2:30-4:45-5:20-8:10-10:30-11 Tue 11:45-2-2:30-4:50-5:20-7:40-8:10-10:30-11 Wed-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:30
Vermeer and Music: The Art of Love and Leisure (G) Sat 4
WWE Survivor Series - 2013 (STC) Sun 6

Thor: The Dark World CONTRIBUTED

Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

All Is Lost (PG) Sat 9:15 Sun 8:30 Mon-Wed 9 Thu 9:15
Enough Said (PG) Sat 2-7:15 Sun 2-6:30 Mon-Wed 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri

Sunridge Spectrum
2555 32nd Street

Barney's Great Adventure (G) Sat 11
Bhaji in Problem (PG) Fri 11:35-2:40-6:55-10 Sat 11:35-3:55-7-10:10 Sun 11:35-2:40-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:55-6:50-9:50
Delivery Man (PG) No Passes Fri 12:15-3:05-6:20-9:20 No Passes Sat 12:15 No Passes Sun 12:15-3:05-6:20-9:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 12:20-3:05-6:20-9:20 No Passes Wed 3:45-6:25-9:20 No Passes Thu 1-3:45-6:25-9:20 No Passes Sat 3:05-6:20-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor 3D (STC) Mon 7:30-9:45
Ender's Game (PG) Fri 12:35-3:35-7:05-10:05 Sat 12:40 Sun 12:35-3:35-7:05-10:05 Mon-Tue 12:35-3:45-7:10-10:05 Sat 3:40-7:05-10:05
Free Birds (G) Fri-Sun 12:05 Mon-Tue 12:10
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:50-5:05-7:25 Mon 2:50 Tue 2:50-6:55
Frozen (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05
Frozen 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 2:55-7:10-9:55
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 9:50 Tue 9:25
Homefront (14A) Wed-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:40-9:25
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 No Passes Sat 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 No Passes Fri 11:30-12:15-2:45-3:30-6-6:45-9:15-10 No Passes Sat 11:45-12:15-3-3:30-6:15-6:45-9:30-10 No Passes Sun 11:30-12:15-2:45-3:30-6-6:45-9:15-10 No Passes Mon-Tue 11:45-1:15-3-4:30-6:15-7:45-9:30 No Passes Wed 11:45-3-4:30-6:15-7:45-9:30 No Passes Thu 11:45-1-3-4:30-6:15-7:45-9:30 No Passes Fri 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 No Passes Sat 10-1:15-4:30-7:45-11 No Passes Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:25-6:50-9:40 Mon-Tue 12:50-3:25-7:05-9:40 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:20-7:05-9:40
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 12:55-4:05-6:45-9:55 Sat 12:55-3:45-6:40-9:55 Sun 12:55-4:05-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:55
Oldboy (18A) Wed-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:35
Ram-Leela (STC) Fri 12:40-4:10-7:35 Sat 12:35-4:05-7:40 Sun 12:40-4:10-7:35 Mon-Thu 12:55-4:25-7:55
Singh Saab the Great (STC) Fri 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:35 Sat 12-3:50-7:10-10:35 Sun 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 11:55-3:35-7-10:20
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 11:45-3-6:15-9:30 Sat 12:35-4:15-7:30-10:20 Sun 11:45-3-6:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Sat 1-4:45-8-10:50 Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 1-4:15-7:25-10:15
WWE Survivor Series - 2013 (STC) Sun 6

Westhills 10
165 Stewart Green

About Time (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:40
The Book Thief (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 5:50-9
Delivery Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-3:35-7:10-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50
Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor 3D (STC) Mon 8
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Sun 9:30 Mon-Thu 8:30
Free Birds (G) Fri-Sun 12:05
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:15-4:30-7:05 Mon-Thu 6
Frozen (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 5:25
Frozen 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 8:15
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:25-7:20-10:05 Mon 5:30 Tue-Thu 5:30-8
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-12:30-3:15-3:45-6:30-7-9:45-10:15 No Passes Mon-Tue 5:20-8:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 5:20-7:40-8:35 No Passes Fri-Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 No Passes Sun 1-4:15-7:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 5-7:40-8:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 5-8:20
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:50-9:35 Mon-Tue 6:05-9
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10 Mon-Tue 5:25
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:40-6:45-7:35-9:40-10:30 Sun 12:20-3:40-6:45-7:35-9:40 Mon 6:15-9:05 Tue 6:15-8:15-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:15-9:05

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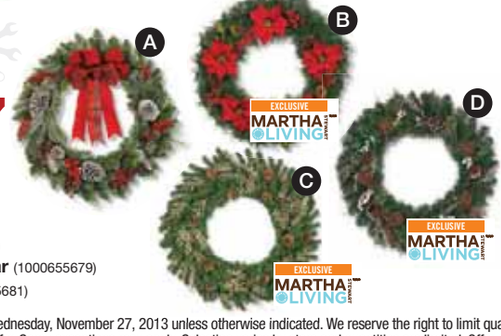
Your Choice
$24.97 each



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A. 30" Frosted (1000705289)
B. 30" Poinsettia (1000741136)
C. 30" Pine Cone and Cedar (1000655679)
D. 30" Snowy Cedar (1000655681)

SPECIAL BUY SAVE OVER $7
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30" LED Artificial Pre-Lit Douglas Wreath • 50 soft white LED lights (1000686292)

SPECIAL BUY SAVE $5
$29.97 WAS $34.97
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MARTHA STEWART LIVING™ 4' Pre-Lit Hawkins Wreath • Over 200 clear mini lights (1000654217)

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Why so serious about your songs?

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

I could offer some very serious music suggestions, but why when this kind of stuff is so much more fun?

Man on the Silver Mountain/Extreme

No, not that Extreme. This is the New Zealand band fronted by Ella Yelich-O'Connor — the one we know as Lorde — when she was 12.

Rapping Without the Letter E/Andrew Huang

In 1939, Eugene Vincent Wright published Gadsby, a 50,000-word novel that didn't use the letter "e" once. Toronto artist Andrew Huang decided to do the same thing when composing this rap.

Wild Horse/ Norazo

What's the next level beyond Psy's horsey dance in Gangnam Style? This South Korean band believes that the answer lies in dressing up as actual horses.

Mind the App

Metric Synthetica

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Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

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Tap or swipe these 11 playful landscapes and you can remix Metric's newest album, changing out voices and instruments while adjusting their speed. Enjoyable, thanks to perfectly matched music.

Arcade Fire. No shoes, no shirt, no concert ... unless that's your costume for tonight

Canadian rock band Arcade Fire is getting heat for instituting a dress code for its upcoming North American arena tour.

On the Ticketmaster pages hawking seats for the Montreal group's upcoming tour, a note at the top of the page reads: "Please wear formal attire or costume."

The tour begins March 6 in Louisville and stops in Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg before wrapping in Montreal on Aug. 30.

The band had made similar sartorial demands before a show in Montreal in September and in London earlier this month, when NME reported that frontman Win Butler told the crowd: "To anyone who felt uncomfortable dressing up — I'm not sorry."

The demand is garnering some backlash, with online cultural magazine Slate writing that the move is "presumptuous" and "an attempt to reinforce the band's status as capital-A Artists."

Arcade Fire topped charts in Canada and the U.S. with its double-disc opus Reflektor, released in October.

Their previous album, The Suburbs, also debuted at No. 1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arcade Fire may have overstepped their grounds. GETTY IMAGES

Extraordinary or extra ordinary.
The choice is yours.
[taste life]

You could win your experience of a lifetime. $10,000 to do that thing you always wanted to try.

Enter today at
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Must be legal drinking age. Watch your tail. Drink responsibly.

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Trip for 4. Airfare & 2 nights

2011 MITSUBISHI LANCER SE

STK# 234235
$59/WK
$15,988

2012 TOYOTA YARIS SE

STK#234289
$55/WK
$14,788

2013 MITSUBISHI RVR SE

STK#234311
$74/WK
$22,998

2010 TOYOTA TUNDRA

STK#F2400120A
$85/WK
$23,998

2011 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER

STK#23S0254A
V6, AUTOMATIC
$119/WK
$35,998

2011 LEXUS ISF

STK# 234180
$194/WK
$55,888

2011 TOYOTA TACOMA DBL CAB TRD

STK# 2301584A
$115/WK
$32,998

2011 NISSAN VERSA HATCHBACK

STK# 234203
$55/WK
$14,798

2013 NISSAN MAXIMA

STK#234288
$89/WK
$27,998

2011 CHRYSLER 300

STK# 234158
$72/WK
$19,998

2012 MAZDA2 GX HATCHBACK

STK#234278
$49/WK
$13,998

2011 TOYOTA SIENNA

STK#F2302100A
$99/WK
$29,998

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Replicating the high school experience

Interview. Chris Lilley talks about bringing Ja'mie King: Private School Girl to North America and drawing on familiar memories

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
Metro World News

Chris Lilley stars as Ja'mie King in Ja'mie King: Private School Girl. CONTRIBUTED

Fans of Australia's We Can Be Heroes and Summer Heights High are on the edge of their seats anticipating the return of TV's queen bee, Ja'mie King. The ultimate mean girl is now the star of her own Kardashian-style reality series in Ja'mie King: Private School Girl. To learn more about the new show, airing Sundays on HBO, we spoke with comedian Chris Lilley, who created and plays Ja'mie King.

Ja'mie's from We Can Be Heroes and Summer Heights High, but can you tell us what the new series has in store?
So Ja'mie's always been a private school girl, and in Summer Heights High (a mockumentary series about public high school life) she did a term away — but in this one, it's just back to her. It's her last three months of school. She's the school captain, she's on top of the world and bossier than ever. It's sort of put together like a reality show, like she is Kim Kardashian or something. She's got her own show this time, and it's all about her school life and family life. And so it sets up in the first episode that it's about her downfall. It's narrated by Ja'mie and it's all teenage drama and friends issues and boy issues and all of the sort of things that happen in the last few months of school. And, yeah, it's the first time I've done a show that is only about one character, so it's a chance to really get stuck in that world.

If she's on the top of the world right now, does that mean she learned nothing from her visit to public school?
Yeah, she never learns anything, she's just all about herself (laughs). You kinda get the impression at the end of Summer Heights High that it's done nothing, she's still glad she is a private school girl.

Why do you think she's your most popular character?
I don't think she — I don't know if she is. When I go around in public, I have lots of people come up and recognize me from the shows, and I play lots of characters and probably Jonah (from Summer Heights High) and Nathan from Angry Boys are the ones that people would call out, they're more recognizable. I know a lot of people really like Ja'mie — but for a lot of people, she drives them crazy. I don't know; I don't analyze it much, I just do it.

So why is she the subject of your first solo show? Is she your favourite?
I really like her. It's hard, because they are all my favourites. I wanted to do a show about one character, and so it was more like she fit into that idea because she's been in two other shows. And I'd sort of already set up all of these things about her world. I don't know. I just decided it would be fun to focus on her. I wasn't looking at any stats or anything, it was just a fun world. I like to write about all of them, but I was having a moment where I just wanted to write about her.

Chris Lilley is the successful writer behind the character Ja'mie King and its various series. CONTRIBUTED

What does it mean for you that HBO is airing Ja'mie King in North America almost at the same time as it airs in Australia? Usually we get it much later.
It's really good that they're doing that because there is always a six-month delay, and these days it's one world with all the technology so, yeah, it was always a disappointment that six months later American people got to see the show. Now it's only about three weeks after Australia, and it's really great. And they are giving it a great time slot on Sunday nights and HBO is really excited about this one.

Does it also help reduce online piracy?
Yeah, hopefully. I think I'm supposed to care about that, but I just can't. When you make a show you just want people to see it. You want people to be affected by it and to love it and experience it. I don't mind that much, as long as people see it and spread the word. (Pause) I shouldn't be promoting pirating (laughs). I would probably be rich if pirating didn't exist, but, yeah, as long as people see it.

Do you have to tweak the humour of the show to appeal to an international audience?
No, I learned that pretty early on. HBO was really excited about (We Can Be Heroes) and invited me over and said, 'We love what you're doing, can you do an American version? Can you come over and do an American accent?' And then I was like, 'Wouldn't that just take away from what it's all about? I think what you love about it is that it's Australian.' And then they kind of agreed with me and said, 'We're gonna buy the next show that you do.' So they bought Summer Heights High and they aired that — and that had a huge response for them. So I think we both realized that it's making the show here, and not trying to impress people or trying to second-guess what people like, and just being true to what I like, is what's really working. The new show definitely doesn't try to be American or anything. Obviously you're making it for the audience, but the audience is pretty universal.

Last question

What was your own high school experience like?

- **Mirror image?** "Well, my school was actually a private school, so it was very much like Ja'mie's school. And I think I always craved going to a public school. I kinda wanted that more "real" experience. So maybe I'm still trying to deal with that thing with the theme of the show."

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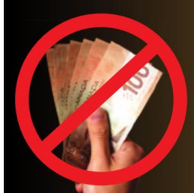

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The Clash are calling again on a Sound System near you

Q&A. Two of the band's surviving members Mick Jones and Paul Simonon talk about Strummer, the what ifs

Paul Simonon at the Black Market Clash pop-up exhibition and store in London, England to mark the release of the group's remastered collected works Sound System box set in London INVISION/AP

Ah, the boom box. The portable stereo brings back memories of a specific time in music, when some of the sounds blaring from the speakers included the stew of punk rock, reggae and early hip-hop cooked up by the Clash.

Bass player Paul Simonon designed the group's new box set to look like a boom box. Lift up the cover and you'll find the complete recorded output of the classic Clash lineup — the late Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Simonon and Topper Headon — with outtakes, videos, fanzines, stickers, a poster and more. The survivors worked a few years to get back control of their music, remaster it and restore the original artwork.

The Clash were leaders of London's punk rock class of 1977, made one of rock's most enduring albums in London Calling and soaked up the sounds of the street in hits like Train in Vain and Rock the Casbah. Jones and Headon were fired in 1982 and although replacements were added and another album, Cut the Crap, released in 1985, that final chapter is ignored in the Sound System box.

The balding Jones now looks like a kindly British professor as he sits down to talk about the project. Simonon, who always looked better than he played, is impeccably tailored.

They confide a few myth-puncturing details in an interview with The Associated Press earlier this fall: "The Only Band That Matters" declaration was record company hype that they detested, and the band poked fun at their political crusader image in the song Know Your Rights — only people took them too seriously to notice.

Before the Clash, Jones went to art school, not to learn how to draw, but to meet other musicians. He took a grant given to buy art supplies and bought an amp instead. It proved to be a good investment.

Were the Clash destined to burn bright and burn out fast?
Simonon: We didn't know it at the time, but I guess so. When we first started, I was surprised that we got through the end of the week, really.
Jones: Nothing was guaranteed. I knew that we worked really hard, nearly every day.

Is it a regret that you ended when you did?
Simonon: We were starting to lose track with Earth because fame and success brings you many things that you're not really prepared for or know how to deal with as a human being. When it does happen, it's very easy to get swallowed up and be taken along with it and become a casualty or lose touch with reality. The fact that we fell apart when we did, sacking everybody, in some ways stopped those potential problems.

Did you make your peace with Joe Strummer before he died (in 2002)?
Jones: It was well before he died. It was just a few months after I left the group that we became friends again.
Simonon: We appeared in Mick's B.A.D. video for Medicine Show, just to show outwardly that we were friends again.

If he had lived, do you think the Clash would have gotten back together?
Jones: We had opportunities. That's it, really. It didn't happen. It never seemed right.

Why?
Jones: We didn't want to do it.
Simonon: It's a better story at the end of the day that we didn't get back together. We saved all that time and effort by not reforming. It seems like we would have squandered what we'd achieved by reforming. Why do people get together? Why do bands reform? Oh, they're good mates. Well, that's nice. It's usually because of a financial situation that has to be adhered to. Basically, everyone's broke.
Jones: Our band is an idea as well. It kind of said, "You can do this." We can say all this now in retrospect and sort of understand it. When we did it, we just did it instinctively with no thought of future significance.

Does the world need a band like the Clash today?
Jones: There's not much going on, is there?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Hours Traffic. If there was a fat lady, she'd be singing right now

Members of the Prince Edward Island band Two Hours Traffic. CONTRIBUTED

When Charlottetown power-pop outfit Two Hours Traffic recently announced their imminent breakup and farewell tour, the members pledged in a statement that the split had nothing to do with internal dysfunction or creative malaise.

Which left fans wondering why, exactly, they were breaking up then, with the two most obvious reasons ruled out? Well, frontman Liam Corcoran says that despite a decade-plus career that has yielded some success — a Polaris Prize nomination, a devoted following and a horde of East Coast Music Award nominations, including one win — the band's four members still couldn't support themselves financially through music.

"We had been struggling for a while to make a living doing this," Corcoran said recently in a telephone interview. "We'd had the conversation a lot in the last two years of how long can we keep this going without really making a living and coming home, working for $10 an hour?

"Despite the successes we had, it still isn't something we can rely on to pay the bills," he continued. "So we're still coming home and scrambling to get everything else done. There's a lot of honour in that but after 12 years we decided we'd done what we could and it was time to move on."

Indeed, Corcoran and guitarist Andrew MacDonald worked at a local clothing store when they were off tour. Eventually, drummer Derek Ellis decided that he wanted to pursue a master's degree at Western University in London, Ont.

To continue would have likely meant replacing him, which — after the 2011 departure of founding guitarist Alec O'Hanley — would have left Two Hours Traffic with only two original members.

"We started to feel it wasn't the band it used to be and if we continued to play under the name Two Hours Traffic, it'd be kind of dishonest," Corcoran explained. Looking back, Corcoran is intensely proud of the band's output.

After 2005's self-titled debut earned some attention, 2007's Little Jabs brought Two Hours Traffic perhaps their greatest success. The Polaris-nominated disc further established the band's gift for hook-laden power pop, merging the legacy of such acclaimed tunesmiths as Marshall Crenshaw and Nick Lowe with the modern, lean production redolent of the first Strokes album.

That gift for melody never left, not on the slightly moodier 2009 disc Territory or what will likely stand as the group's swan song, 2012's Foolish Blood, a record that found the group exploring more spacious production and a wider palette of sounds. In Corcoran's opinion, it's the band's best work.

His next priority is the band's farewell tour, which will begin Dec. 12 at Toronto's Lee's Palace and ultimately finish with a pair of shows in Charlottetown Dec. 21 and 22.

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Lissie's new album, Back to Forever, is out now. ANDREW WHITTON

What's keeping musician Lissie connected the world over?

Music. While promoting her new album, Back to Forever, Metro finds out what apps Lissie is using on the road

On tour to promote her latest album, Back to Forever, Lissie touches down in Toronto today for a show at Adelaide Hall. But while travelling between cities, you can guarantee the singer has been spending her time using the following items on her smartphone.

Sudoku
(Optime arts version: free)
"I like the challenge, helps to pass time and I'd like to think it's good for my brain."

Instagram
"I get to travel to lots of cool places and spend lots of time away from family and friends while on the road so it's a good way to share what I'm up to and see what my friends and family are up to as well."

Twitter
"It's a great tool for letting my followers know about shows and sharing content, all info about what we're doing really… I can thank those who come to the gigs and the encouraging feedback keeps me going!"

My fitness pal
"On the road I don't eat very well and drink too much and get a bit of a gut! We are sitting for long periods of time whether in planes, buses or cars and this app helps me be mindful of what I'm eating."

United airlines app
"I'm a big nerd about my mileage. I stay loyal to United and had flown 100,000 miles by September of this year."
METRO

Canadians star in Bob Dylan's new music video

Like a Rolling Stone. CMT Canada host Paul McGuire and the Property Brothers make an appearance in the unique approach to an old song

Bob Dylan continues to innovate with his new music video. CONTRIBUTED

A few Canadians feature prominently in Bob Dylan's new interactive music video for Like a Rolling Stone, which premiered online Tuesday.

Identical twins Drew and Jonathan Scott, better known as the stars of the W Network show Property Brothers, and CMT Canada host Paul McGuire appear on two of the 16 virtual TV channels that users can flip through while Dylan's song plays.

On each channel, the characters on screen lip sync the lyrics to Like a Rolling Stone. The shows on the channels include specially shot versions of Pawn Stars, The Price is Right, Property Brothers, a parody of The Bachelor, faux news shows and a tennis match.

McGuire plays a TV anchor for a business news network, while the Scott brothers were told to mimic their show as much as possible for the music video.

"I asked what the idea was and they said they wanted to try something new and interactive that's never been done before ... and show different personalities from pop culture and every different walk of life," said Jonathan Scott, who added that he was thrilled to participate and has Like a Rolling Stone on his MP3 player.

"They said that basically they wanted it to be like our real show except we're unaware that our mouths are moving to the lyrics of the song, so they didn't want us playing it up or consciously singing the song."

While they knew most of the lyrics to the classic song — or at least they thought they had them right — Drew Scott said lip syncing them wasn't easy.

"The hard thing is the way Bob Dylan sings, the cadence is different and the rhythm is really different. So to line up our lips was such a tough thing to do," he said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Something new, sort of

Do you want to watch the video? Want to see who else made the cut?

- **Online.** You can watch the video at video.bobdylan.com/desktop.html
- **New, old music.** The video is being used to promote the latest Dylan release which includes previously unreleased songs and non-album songs as well as extensive liner notes in the box set.

Jonathan and Drew Scott appear in the video. CONTRIBUTED

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Yannick Bisson plays Detective William Murdoch on Murdoch Mysteries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

CBC's winter lineup heavy on familiar fare

Television. Schedule includes 1,500 hours of Sochi Games coverage

The CBC's winter lineup is heavy on coverage of the upcoming Winter Games and returning series.

The public broadcaster outlined its upcoming schedule Wednesday, touting mostly familiar fare including Murdoch Mysteries, Dragons' Den, Republic of Doyle, Heartland and The Rick Mercer Report.

It's no surprise the February schedule is dominated by coverage of the Sochi 2014 Olympics, with CBC promising more than 1,500 broadcast hours in both English and French.

New additions to the grid include the political satire The Best Laid Plans, the reality series Four Rooms and the culinary competition Recipe to Riches, which used to air on the Food Network.

In addition to the weekly Saturday night battles on Hockey Night in Canada, CBC will have the 2014 Bridgestone NHL Winter Classic on Jan. 1, back-to-back games from the 2014 Coors Light Stadium Series on Jan. 25 and 26, and the 2014 Tim Hortons Heritage Classic on March 2. Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada goes live from Lloydminster, Alta./Sask., on Jan. 18.

That's in addition to a partnership with the NHL, NHLPA and NBC to broadcast the seven-part series, NHL Revealed: A Season Like No Other. It starts Jan. 23, a day after it begins south of the border on NBC Sports Network.

The six-part miniseries The Best Laid Plans, based on author Terry Fallis' award-winning novel, focuses on an Ottawa speech writer who decides to leave the Hill for academia, but is tasked with one last impossible job: to find a viable candidate to run against a massively popular incumbent in the next election, and to manage the campaign. It premieres Jan. 5.

Meanwhile, Four Rooms features collectors from across Canada who hope to sell treasured finds they think could be worth a fortune. It debuts Jan. 5.

Other returning series include Arctic Air on Jan. 7, The Ron James Show on Feb. 24, and the high school sitcom Mr. D on Feb. 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Introducing...

- New additions to the grid include the political satire The Best Laid Plans, the reality series Four Rooms and the culinary competition Recipe to Riches, which used to air on the Food Network.

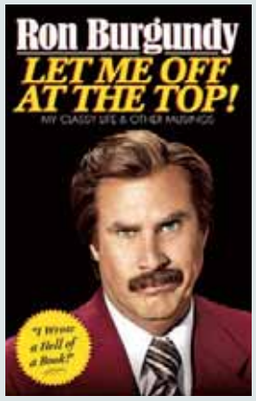
Let us introduce you to your next favourite book

With winter's grip starting to tighten, there is no better way to spend a cold night then curled up in bed or in your favourite chair with a good book. Here are three suggestions to get you in the reading mood.

EMILY LAURENCE

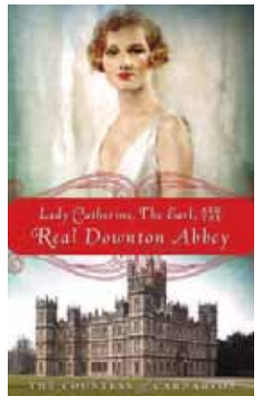
1 Let Me Off at the Top! My Classy Life & Other Musings, by Ron Burgundy

You don't have to wait until the release of Anchorman: The Legend Continues to hear some of Ron Burgundy's wise words. The anchorman, played by Will Ferrell, is releasing a classy new book and while it doesn't smell of rich mahogany, it includes plenty of personal anecdotes. From dispelling myths about his hair to his secret to musings about the women he's loved, Burgundy's short stories are personal and detailed. Sometimes too detailed.



2 Lady Catherine, the Earl, and the Real Downton Abbey, by the Countess of Carnarvon

Downton Abbey fans will devour this new true story, written by the Countess, whose first book inspired the show. After her last book spent nearly a year on the New York Times best seller list, the royal author is back with another page-turner full of royal scandal and affairs. In the book, a divorced Lady Catherine faces the heartache of war when her husband, ex-husband and son all join the military.



3 The Ministry of Guidance Invites You to Not Stay: An American Family in Iran, by Hooman Majd

Moving from Greenpoint, Brooklyn to Iran proves to be quite the culture shock in this true story, written by Iranian-American journalist Hooman Majd. Majd's wife is from the Midwest and doesn't blend in so easily — even when wearing a head scarf. The challenges they face range from trivial (hunting for booze) to serious (it's 2011 and US-Iran relations are not exactly friendly) and make this book as entertaining as it is heart-warming.

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Hello Mr. Bond, he's been expecting you

Donald Pleasence as James Bond's archenemy Ernst Blofeld in the 1967 adventure movie You Only Live Twice.
CONTRIBUTED

You only live twice. Screenwriter's decades-long legal battle kept famous James Bond super villain Ernst Blofeld in the dark, until now (maybe)

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York City

It's been 30 years since James Bond super villain Ernst Blofeld terrorized movie screens. Predictably, you can blame a lawsuit.

For 50 years a legal battle ensued with screenwriter Kevin McClory, who died in 2006. But word has come that his estate has settled with Bond studio MGM and production house Danjaq. This means — but does not ensure — that in the 24th Bond film, to be released in late 2015, Daniel Craig may get his own shot at fighting Blofeld.

Though he appeared in six of the movies (seven if you count the non-canonical Never Say Never Again), Blofeld — head of the mysterious and powerful criminal circuit SPECTRE — was only in three of Bond creator Ian Fleming's novels. The book that introduced him, Thunderball, was not an original but rather a novelization of a script Fleming had written with others in the 1950s, in a failed early attempt to bring Bond to the screen.

Fleming and McClory created Blofeld in tandem, and as early as 1961, when the book was published, McClory sued Fleming for not giving him proper credit.

The lawsuit was resolved out of court, and Blofeld — who changed physical appearances (and actors) but, at least on film, usually kept the tight-fitting grey suit and yen for cat-stroking — wormed his way into the Bond-iverse.

His first screen appearances were in From Russia With Love and Thunderball, in which he was tantalizingly obscured. His face was finally revealed, with a nasty-cool scar, in You Only Live Twice, where he was played by Donald Pleasance. He was not killed, as in the book, and appeared again, played by Telly Savalas, in On Her Majesty's Secret Service; by Charles Gray, now with hair, in Diamonds Are Forever; and finally, his face again obscured (and once more bald) in For Your Eyes Only, where Roger Moore's Bond drops him into a chimney stack via a helicopter. (He dies — presumably.)

Through the '60s and '70s, McClory tried to circumvent his settlement to launch his own Bond franchise, which would

Battle of the Bonds

Kevin McClory's remake of Thunderball, Never Say Never Again, was released the same year as the official Bond film, Octopussy.

- The result was a big fat anti-climax: both films did about the same business at the box office.
- Still, it wound up being the only independently produced Bond film by McClory.
- McClory tried in vain to make other 007 films, but was still only legally allowed to again remake Thunderball.

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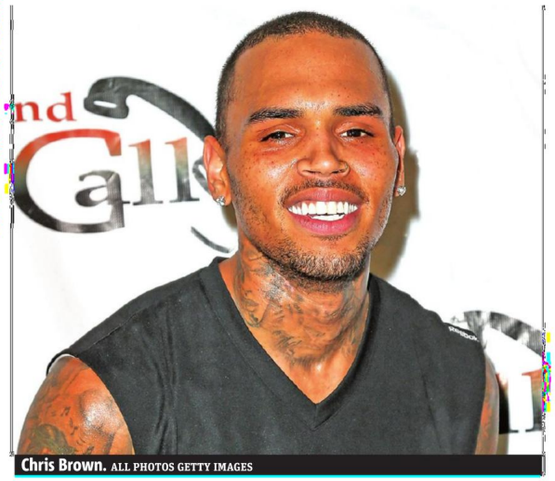
METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Aaron Carter

The party's over: Aaron Carter is bankrupt

Uh-oh. Aaron Carter joins Toni Braxton, Teresa Giudice, MC Hammer, Kim Basinger and other fallen stars who have filed for bankruptcy. In legal docs acquired by TMZ, the former teen star lists his assets as $8,232.16 US. Which isn't going to come close to his liabilities, which total $2,204,854, with $1,368,140 owed to the IRS. And this factoid may make you feel better about your paycheque: Aaron lists his average monthly income at $1,998.75. So, hey! You might not be able to ever retire, but neither will Aaron Carter.


Chris Brown. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Chris Brown kicked out of anger management for throwing a rock

Chris Brown has been thrown out of his Malibu rehab facility after he "flew into a violent rage" and threw a rock through his mother's car window following a family therapy session, according to TMZ.

The troubled R&B star has now been sentenced to 90 days in a different live-in anger management facility. Brown, who was most recently arrested for a brawl outside a Washington, D.C., hotel, was at the first facility for two weeks before the incident. The judge overseeing the case did not decide to revoke his probation.

The Word

Don't get close for the camera, Will

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in New York City

This is hilarious. Check out Will Smith trying really, really hard not to put his arm around Margot Robbie in this photo call for their new film Focus in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Wednesday.

It makes sense. After all, the two co-stars were the subject of intense media speculation last month after they reportedly had a steamy romp in a photo booth at a party. "Once they pulled the curtain back to take the pictures, they let their inhibitions run wild, laughing, hugging and nuzzling each other in the dark," a source told Star.

So now Smith, the professional he is, knows if any other forthcoming gossip about his marriage or his "nuzzling" come to light, media outlets will use any photo they can find of Robbie and him together. Smart man.

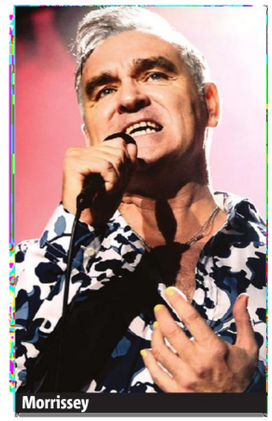
Are Harry and Kendall a thing? Don't expect him to deny it

Harry Styles

Harry Styles is prompting new dating rumours after being spotted taking Kendall Jenner to dinner in L.A. Wednesday night, according to Us Weekly. Styles drove them to dinner at Craig's restaurant in West Hollywood, Jenner seated beside him in his SUV.

While it's not clear if Styles is actually dating the 18-year-old, he has made his feelings on high-profile relationships known. "I don't want to be one of those people that complains about the rumours," he recently told the British edition of GQ magazine.

"I never like it when a celebrity goes on Twitter and says, 'This isn't true!' It is what it is. The only time it gets really annoying is that if you get into a relationship and you get into a place where you really like someone and then things are being written in the papers that affect them and how they see you. Then it can get annoying."


Morrissey

Morrissey takes aim at Pippa

Morrissey is not pleased with Pippa Middleton's recent hunting trip, to put it mildly. The singer and animal rights activist let off a lengthy blog post going after several high-profile hunters, taking aim specifically at the Middletons.

"On Oct. 5, the Daily Mail newspaper gave us all an 'amusing' report of thick-wit Pippa Middleton laughing as she stood over 50 birds shot dead by her friends and herself after a 'busy day's shooting,'" he writes. "The sick face of modern Britain, Pippa Middleton will kill deer, boar, birds — any animal struggling to live or that gets in her socialite way.

"This is because her sister is, of course, Kate, who herself became 'royal' simply by answering the telephone at the right time, and this association allows Pippa's 'kill, kill, kill' mentality to be smilingly endorsed by the British print media, to which only the mentally deficient could join in with the laughter."

Dan's advice for celebs? Stop sharing

Daniel Radcliffe

Daniel Radcliffe has some simple advice for celebrities who are tired of having their privacy invaded: Stop sharing so much. "I don't have Twitter and I don't have Facebook and I think that makes things a lot easier," he tells Sky News. "Because if you go on Twitter and tell everybody what you're doing moment to moment and then claim you want a private life, then no one is going to take that request seriously."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

'TWAS THE NIGHT AT THE CORE

For those people who don't live or work downtown, downtown shopping isn't often on the radar. But shopping in Calgary's business district at The CORE (TD Square/Holt Renfrew) is one of Calgary's best kept secrets.

Since completing its multimillion-dollar renovation in 2011, the CORE has transformed and shoppers have noticed. The centre experiences unprecedented traffic of more than 50,000 people daily or 1.2 million monthly, which makes it a major downtown hub. Whether shopping, eating or in transit, guests enjoy an "outdoors in" feel, with expansive skylight ceilings and the incorporation of the newly completed Devonian Gardens, now integrated into the CORE's fourth-level dining area.

As Calgary's only downtown shopping centre, the CORE has always been home for retailer flagships, resulting in more selection and exclusives for shoppers. Since relaunching, this has increased with anchors like Holt Renfrew, and Harry Rosen and major retailers like H&M and Banana Republic carrying designer lines and increased inventory exclusively at the CORE.

But it's not just the retailer mix, it's the shopping environment. The biggest perceived barrier to shopping downtown is parking, but the CORE has solved that problem with free parking on evenings and weekends in two underground, heated parkades for the first three hours (after that, it's just a $2 flat rate). Parking fees apply during weekdays before 4 p.m., but valet parking services are always available free to shoppers, regardless of when they arrive.

"Most people are surprised to hear that the CORE offers free parking to shoppers during evenings and weekends," says Kim Bogner, marketing director at the CORE. "Especially during the holiday season, the CORE is ideal for parkers who don't want to fight for stalls. I don't know why everyone doesn't use it."

The CORE (TD Square/Holt Renfrew) will welcome thousands to experience the centre Nov. 27 when it hosts 'Twas the Night, Calgary's biggest after-hours holiday shopping event.

Bogner suggests that all guests come prepared to give generously.

A suggested donation of $15 can be made online in advance at coreshopping.ca or in person at the event. More than $60,000 has been raised by the event through generous attendee donations in the last two years.

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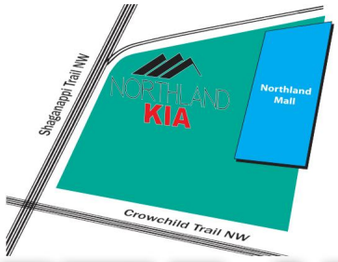

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The Power to Surprise

Terrific teen ideas

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

If you have a teenager, you know how difficult it can be to purchase a gift for them. Forget the gift cards and guessing which style of jeans they want. These high-tech gifts are sure to please even the pickiest teen.

Playstation 4 — $399.99, bottom, Pebble — $150, below.

Playstation 4 — $399.99
One of the most highly anticipated new consoles of the year. The PS4 features improved processing and graphical power with voice control. A new controller features a touchpad and "share" button, which lets you record and share gameplay with friends online.

Xbox One — $499.99
Microsoft's next generation console promises to wow gamers of all ages. Every aspect of this next-gen console has been enhanced, including a vastly improved Kinect sensor and a newly designed controller with more than 40 new technological innovations.

Sony Xperia Z1 — $700 (no contract)
Snappy performance and stylish good looks, this is a smartphone your teen will want to show off. The rear 20.7-megapixel camera will help them capture moments with friends, while the waterproof and dust-resistant body will hold up to most teens.

Samsung Galaxy S4 Mini — $449.99 (no contract)
Compact and yet powerful. This smaller version of Samsung's popular Galaxy S4 has many of the same features but now in a smaller form. A solid plastic build ensures durability, while the eight-megapixel camera is perfect for snapping selfies and Facebook pics.

Mophie Juice Pack Helium — $79.95
Your teen will never be able to use the excuse "my phone's battery died" again once you buy them this case for their iPhone. This case contains an external battery providing up to an additional 80 per cent battery life, yet it's thin and light. Available in multiple colours.

Sonos Play:1 — $219
If your teen loves music then look no further. Once they connect Play:1 to their home network and download the app, they can stream music from the most popular music services directly to the speakers. Purchase additional speakers for an even richer music experience.

Pebble — $150
So much more than just a watch. Pebble connects to your smartphone via Bluetooth so you receive notifications each time you receive an email or text. Download apps to give your watch even more functionality. Teens can also personalize Pebble by choosing one of hundreds of customizable faces or swapping out the wrist strap.

Philips Friends of Hue Bloom Lamp — $79.95
The perfect way to let your teen customize the look of their room without spending a fortune. This lamp is designed to cast coloured light on walls, using an app designed for your iPod, iPhone, or iPad. More than 16 million colours are possible and it doesn't get hot. Requires Philips Hue Bridge accessory.

iPad Mini 2nd Gen — $419 and up
The all-new iPad Mini finally receives the beautiful Retina display. Internal specs also feature a dramatic improvement with faster processor and improved graphical power. Ideal for learning and leisure.

HTC One Mini — $399.99
This pocket-friendly device has the features teenagers demand in a smartphone. Crisp, 4.3-inch high-definition display, amazing audio through to two front-facing speakers, a fantastic camera, plus all your social media streams to the main screen. What more could a teen a want.

Xbox One — $499.99, clockwise, from bottom left, Philips Friends of Hue Bloom Lamp — $79.95, Mophie Juice Pack Helium — $79.95, Sonos Play:1 — $219, iPad Mini 2nd Gen — $419 and up, HTC One Mini — $399.99, Samsung Galaxy S4 Mini — $449.99 (no contract), Sony Xperia Z1 — $700 (no contract).

Holiday gift guide

33 shopping days left

Holiday helpers for your favourite cook

Philips Saeco Poemia Top SS Manual Espresso Maker, $179, available at major retailers and independent kitchen stores and philips.ca.

Fresh Express Fruit And Vegetable Chopper, $119.99, available at mass department and specialty stores, t-fal.ca.

Homemade Cookie Stamp, $18, available at RH.com.

MudPie Moose Salt And Pepper Set, $22, available at CameoNouveau.com.

Aprecia Mini Kettle, $29.99, available at Walmart, walmart.ca.

Umbra's Bento Bamboo Cutting Board, $40, available at umbra.com.

Ethical Bean Three-Pack Gift Set Of 100 Per Cent Fairtrade Certified Organic Coffee, $34.95, available at shop.ethicalbean.com.

Jamie Oliver's new cookbook Save With Jamie, $37.99, available at Sobeys, Chapters, and other stores.

Wilton Holiday Three-Piece Cookie Cutter Set, $5, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Begin a new holiday chapter

Most families have a Christmas tradition or two that they look forward to sharing together year after year.

Traditions draw us closer together and allow us to slow down and enjoy the season.

Reading Christmas short stories together is free, meaningful and gives a slight pause to each day of the hustle and bustle that comes with the holiday season.

Begin on Dec. 1 and read a story each night until Christmas. You may want to plan ahead by having each family member choose a favourite holiday story.

You can borrow some from your local library, download them or listen to audio stories.

Make story time special by lighting some candles, or gathering the family around the Christmas tree. Make some apple cider or hot chocolate and have a small treat like cookies or shortbread to go with your hot drink.

You will be surprised at how much your family will look forward to this quiet time with each other and you may even have some wonderful conversations during or after reading these moments together.

Here are some Christmas stories to get you started:

- The Gift, by R. Louis Carroll.
- The Story Of Babushka: A Christmas Folktale, by Ruth Robbins.
- T'was the Night Before Christmas, by Clement C. Moore.
- The Christmas Story, the Bible — Matthew, Chapters 1 and 2.
- The Little Match Seller, by Hans Christian Anderson.
- The Gift of the Magi, by O. Henry.
- The Selfish Giant, by Oscar Wilde.
- The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus, by L. Frank Baum.
- The Cobbler and His Guest, by Anne McCollum Boyles. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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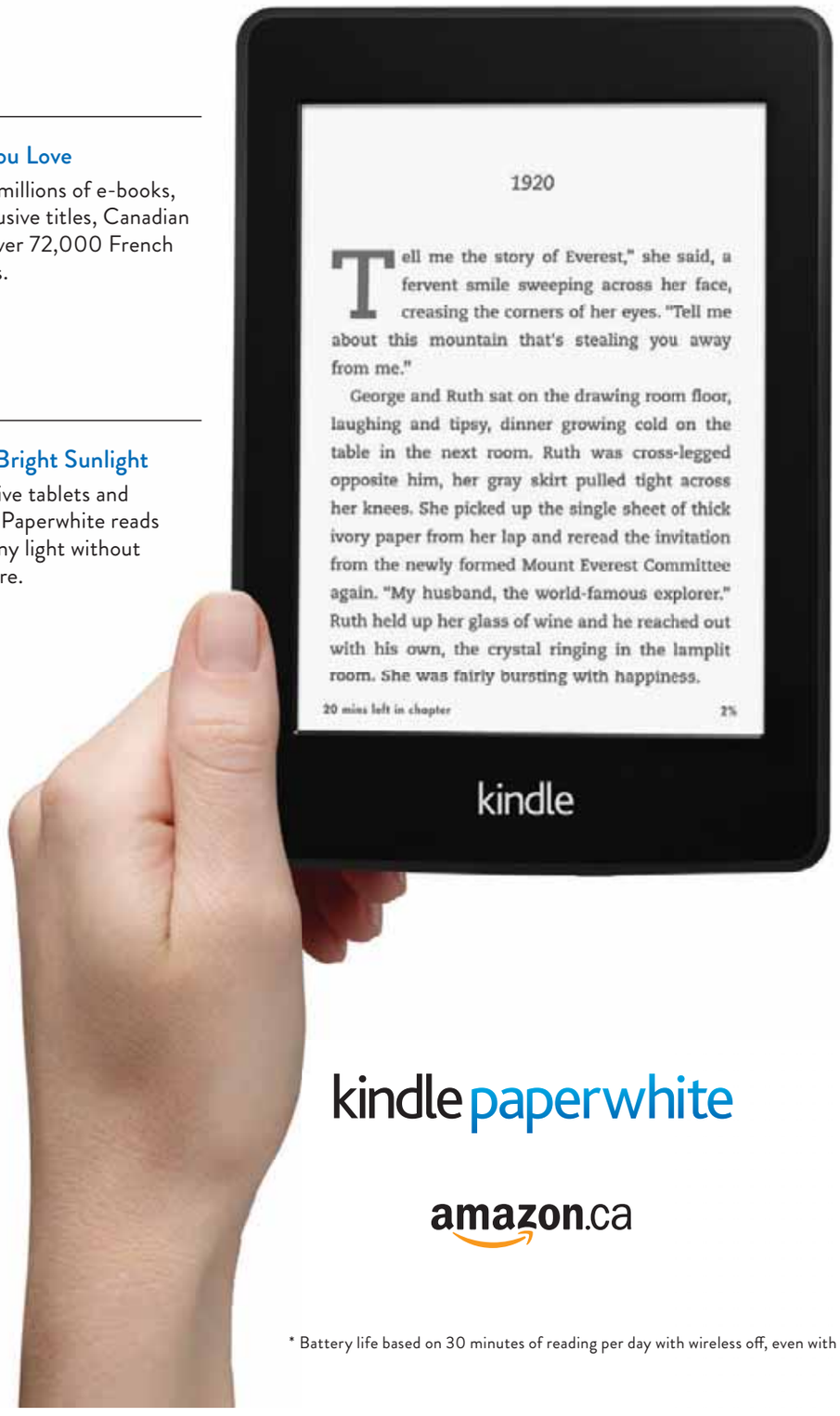

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Don't let the eggnog derail your career path

Office holiday parties. Be on your best behaviour when you gather with co-workers

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

It's wise to keep your inhibitions in check at the annual holiday party if you want to keep your career on the fast track. PRESSMASTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Ah, the annual office holiday party. Perhaps people have been on their best behaviour at the parties you have attended, but things can go south quickly, especially if alcohol flows freely.

If that happens this year — if you want to keep your career on the fast track — it's wise to keep your inhibitions in check.

"Employers are responsible for the safety of their employees, even at an office party, and they have a legal obligation to take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone who goes overboard in terms of sexual harassment, insubordination or discrimination," said Susan Thompson-Graham, the head instructor of the advanced diploma program in human resource management at the Nova Scotia Community College in Halifax.

Here are Thompson-Graham's tips for how to not ruin your career at the party:

• Don't skip the shindig. You may not want to go, but it's one night of the whole year, and if you don't attend, you could be ostracized at work for a while.

• Drink responsibly. Let management set the pace for how much alcohol is consumed. If everyone overindulges, ensure that you also consume vast quantities of water and food. "You don't want to be the office hangover joke the next day," Thompson-Graham said. "And do I even need to say it? No illegal drugs."

• Dress appropriately. "It's not Halloween, so no sexy pirate, sexy nurse or sexy devil outfits," Thompson-Graham said.

• Keep romance at bay. Although many people do meet their significant other at work, don't make out on the dance floor under the glare of the disco ball. "Instead, make arrangements for a rendezvous after the party," Thompson-Graham said.

• Observe social media etiquette. That means no texting — you need to look like you want to be there. And no posting "memorable moments" from the party on Facebook or Instagram, especially if your company has a social media policy.

• Express your gratitude. Thank the host and organizers for their hard work. "I often hear managers say, 'I do this for my employees and don't get a single thank you.' Be remembered for being the one who took the time to do so," Thompson-Graham said.

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FANTASYLAND HOTEL WEST EDMONTON MALL

This recipe makes 12 biscuits. MILKCALENDAR.CA

Add a cheesy side of Canadiana to dinner

Garlic Cheddar Biscuits. This delicious side dish is made with Canadian cheese. Which one? The choice is all yours

For a twist, substitute drained chopped pickled Jalapenos or chives for the green onion.

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F (230 C). Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl combine the flour, baking powder, cream of tartar, sugar and salt. Using a pastry blender or two knives, cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in cheese and green onions. Slowly add the milk, stirring with a fork, until the batter reaches a soft dough consistency.

3. On a lightly floured surface, knead dough gently 3 to 4 times until it holds together. Roll out to 3/4-inch (2 cm) thickness. Cut into squares. Place at least 2 inches (5 cm) apart on prepared baking sheet.

4. Topping: In a small bowl, combine melted butter and garlic powder; brush biscuits with half of the mixture.

5. Bake 12 mins. or until starting to brown. Brush with remaining butter mix. Bake an additional 3 mins. or until golden brown. Best served warm. MEAGHAN THORNHILL OF HARBOURFRONT HOLSTEINS & JEZEBEL JERSEYS IN ANTIGONISH, N.S./ DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA (MILKCALENDAR.CA)

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) cream of tartar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cold butter, cubed
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded Canadian old Cheddar, Marble or Monterey Jack cheese
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) chopped green onions
- 1 cup (250 ml) milk

Topping

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter, melted
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) garlic powder

Liquid Assets

Read, drink local, repeat

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
facebook: therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Even with most wine aficionados plugging into the Internet for the bulk of their liquid knowledge, there's still a place in this world for some hard copy.

Just in time for Christmas, the newly released Canadian Wineries (Firefly Books, $29.95) by Tony Aspler, with photographs by Jean-François Bergeron, is the book Canadian wine fans have been waiting for.

Focusing on more than 60 wineries — from British Columbia's Mission Hill all the way to Nova Scotia's Jost Vineyards — it's a lovingly crafted collection of stories and images that will make even the most jaded sommelier excited to visit these vineyards and drink their wines.

B.C.'s Sandhill Estate is included in the collection and its 2011 Cabernet Merlot ($17.49 to $21.99) is available just about everywhere. Dark, rich and layered with varietal fruit, it's a mouthful of local juice that pairs perfectly with meatier, winter-inspired menus.

The engine driving our vibrant national wine culture is our own wines, and if you're looking for a great guide to the excitement, Canadian Wineries is it. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

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Energy Talks

On Friday, Dr. Steven Chu will be in town with former federal cabinet minister Jim Prentice to discuss the future of energy in North America. Dr. Chu was the former secretary of energy in the United States. Chu and Prentice will be covering many different topics including market access and regulation of greenhouse gases. The event will take place at 11:30 a.m. at the Calgary Convention Centre. For tickets, call 403-750-0402 or visit calgarychamber.com.

A Night with Charles Mingus

Jazz YYC brings you Better Get Hit In Your Soul, an event celebrating the life and times of Charles Mingus through music and dance. Mingus was a respected composer and a talented bassist who wrote more than 300 compositions during his career, before ALS cut his life short. This show runs from Friday until Sunday, Dec. 1, with performances beginning at 8 p.m. in the EPCOR's Big Secret Theatre. You can purchase tickets by calling 403-245-3533. For more information, visit jazzyyc.com.

Pecha Kucha

On Monday, Calgary Arts Development hosts the 18th YYC Pecha Kucha night. This time it's all about medals — presenters will be talking about Olympic achievements and what it takes to win. Pecha Kucha features a series of speakers from a variety of backgrounds and is meant to inspire new conversations and ideas in the community. Tickets are $10 with all proceedings going to Invest YYC. The event takes place at 7 p.m. at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park (Markin MacPhail Centre, 88 Canada Olympic Rd. SW). Visit pechakucha.org for more.

The After Party

Starting on Monday, you can catch Lunchbox Theatre's newest play, which is called The After Party. The story follows a cleaning lady and an IT guy, two people who are single during the holiday season and hate Christmas as a result. You'll learn what kind of bond can be built between two people when it comes to a mutual hatred for the holidays. For tickets, call 403- 265-4292. Admission is $22. Lunchbox Theatre is located at 160-115 9th Ave. SE. For show times, visit lunchboxtheatre.com.

Family Helping Family

Nearly 11.8 million people were affected by the devastating typhoon that recently hit the Philippines. Family Helping Family: YYC for The Philippines is raising funds for UNICEF Canada to ensure that people who were impacted by the typhoon have access to clean water, food and medical attention. To show your support, come out to National at 341 10th Ave. SW on Tuesday, from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are available for a donation of $50. Admission includes snacks, entertainment, and a silent auction.

'Twas the Night

On Friday, Nov. 27, the CORE shopping centre throws its second annual 'Twas the Night. You can look forward to an evening of shopping and holiday entertainment while supporting five local charities. If you know of a family who could use a little Christmas cheer, you can nominate them by visiting country105.com. The event runs from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Admission is free with a suggested donation of $15. See coreshopping.ca.

Please visit www.heartandstroke.ab.ca/calendar or call 1-855-478-4382 for complete rules of play. Tickets may be sold and purchased only in Alberta. Ticket purchasers must be 18 years of age or older. Calendar Lottery Tickets are $25 each (57,599 Tickets available at this price), 3-packs for $70 each (30,187 3-packs for a total of 90,561 Tickets available at this price) or 6-packs for $125 each (28,640 6-packs for a total of 171,840 Calendar Lottery Tickets available at this price). The number of Calendar Lottery Tickets in each price category may change, however the total number of Heart&Stroke Calendar Lottery Tickets for sale, 320,000, will not. All draws will occur at Stride Management Corporation, 3950 - 12 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 8H9, occurring from January 3rd to January 9th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Alberta Chapter, Lottery Licence #354240.
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NBA

Thunder rumble past Clippers

Kevin Durant had 28 points and eight assists, Serge Ibaka scored 17 points and blocked three shots and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Los Angeles Clippers 105-91 on Thursday night.

Russell Westbrook added 12 points for Oklahoma City, which has won its first five home games of the season for the first time since the 2004-05 season, when the franchise was in Seattle.

Blake Griffin had 27 points on 12 of 23 shooting, plus 10 rebounds for the Clippers. He's had a 20-10 double in 10 of the last 12 games, and has posted an NBA-high 100 such games since the start of the 2010-11 season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Blues continue to make sweet music by beating Bruins

Derek Roy scored once in regulation and again in the fourth round of the shootout on Thursday night as the St. Louis Blues beat the Boston Bruins 3-2.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 27 shots in regulation, two more in the overtime and three in the shootout as St. Louis won for the fourth time in five games and continued the hottest start in its history. David Backes also scored for the Blues, and NHL points-leader Alexander Steen converted their other shootout goal after going the entire game without a shot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jon Cornish holds his trophies for the most outstanding player and the top Canadian at the CFL Players Awards Thursday in Regina. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cornish pulls off rare double triumph

Awards. Stampeders star named outstanding player and top Canadian, becoming 3rd man to achieve feat

Jon Cornish has joined an exclusive club.

The Calgary Stampeders running back was the big winner at the CFL awards banquet Thursday night, being named the league's outstanding player and top Canadian. It's the second straight year Cornish was honoured as the league's top Canuck but he's the first Canadian since 1978 to capture the outstanding player honour.

The last Canadian winner of the award was Ottawa tight end Tony Gabriel. Cornish joins Gabriel and legendary Rough Riders quarterback Russ Jackson, a 77-year-old Hamilton native, as the only Canadians to claim the CFL's top individual honour.

Jackson was a three-time winner (1963, '66, '69) and both he and Gabriel, 64, of Burlington, Ont., are members of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

Cornish wasn't the only Stampeder honoured as kicker Rene Paredes (special-teams) and centre Brett Jones (rookie) also won awards.

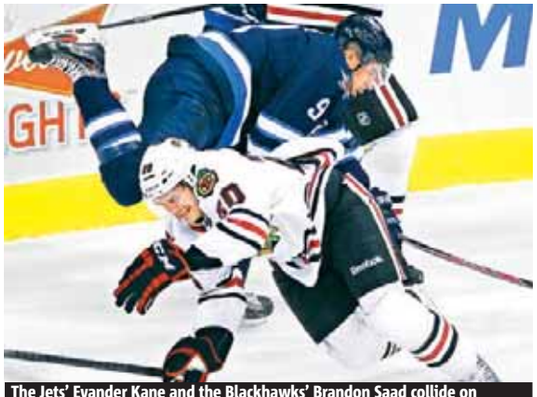
Stiff competition

- Toronto quarterback Ricky Ray was the MOP finalist. The 34-year-old had a CFL-record 77.2 per cent completion average
- Winnipeg linebacker Henoc Muamba was the top Canadian finalist. He finished second overall in tackles (106).

The West Division swept five of the six individual honours as Brendon LaBatte of the Saskatchewan Roughriders was named top lineman while Montreal Alouettes linebacker Chip Cox received the top defensive player designation.

The six-foot, 217-pound Cornish ran for a CFL-high 1,813 yards, the most in a season by a Canadian. The 29-year-old native of New Westminster, B.C., also led the league in yards from scrimmage (2,157) and TDs (14) and helped Calgary (14-4) finish atop the West Division.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Jets' Evander Kane and the Blackhawks' Brandon Saad collide on Thursday night in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Champs turn Jets' best aside

Marian Hossa celebrated his return to the lineup with the winner in the third period Thursday night as his Chicago Blackhawks stumbled but didn't fall and downed the Winnipeg Jets 6-3.

Patrick Kane, Brandon Saad, Jonathan Toews and Ben Smith also scored for Chicago (15-4-4), who have won all three of their games against the Jets this season. Patrick Sharp had an empty-netter to end the game.

Andrew Ladd, Keaton Ellerby and Dustin Byfuglien scored for the Jets (10-11-3).

Hossa, who was sidelined for a few games with an injury, put the Blackhawks ahead at 3:11 of the third when he outplayed Ellerby while swinging past the Jets net, slipping the puck through a very small hole left by goalie Ondrej Pavelec as he moved to cover.

Smith raced in to bang in a rebound for some insurance at 5:22 to make it 5-3.

A Winnipeg radio station had been urging fans to wear helmets to the game in response to a Chicago fan who stole Adam Pardy's after the Jets defenceman was checked through the glass at the United Center on Nov. 6. But the Jets didn't like the idea and told fans they wouldn't get in if their showed up with helmets on Thursday night.

There was a heavy police presence at the game but it wasn't because of the rivalry between the two Central Division teams. Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in attendance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

Buckley staying put under centre

Vanier Cup.
Dzwilewski will not reclaim the Dinos' starting QB spot after being cleared to play following foot injury

Even with Eric Dzwilewski back healthy, there was no question that Andrew Buckley will be the starter for the Calgary Dinos in the Vanier Cup game.

Dzwilewski got the green light from the Dinos doctors this week to return after missing almost the entire season with a foot injury.

After the 2012 West Conference most valuable player was injured in the third quarter of the opening game of the campaign against the University of British Columbia, it was Buckley that led the Dinos to their first undefeated season and got them to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship game.

The No. 3 Dinos face the No. 2 Laval Rouge et Or for the Vanier Cup on Saturday at what is sure to be a packed Telus Stadium.

"It's not a dilemma, it just gives us an option," coach Blake Nill said Thursday. "Andrew's going to start.

"He's played and done everything we've asked from him. Right now, there's no question in my mind who we're going with on Saturday."

The question is whether Dzwilewski will dress for the game. If he does, he will use up his fourth year of eligibility to play university football. A player's fourth year is also when he's eligible for the CFL draft.

Another question is whether Dzwilewski, a native of Boise, Idaho, will stay at Calgary or transfer elsewhere, as it seems he has lost the starting the job to Buckley, who plans to play at least one more season.

Dzwilewski made the trip with the team, but Nill said he will decide probably before Friday whether he will play.

"Here's the dilemma we face — you have a guy like Dzwilewski who's conference MVP, has played in the Vanier Cup in Laval (in 2010), and obviously has a very successful record," he said.

"So he brings something to the table. Then you wonder if you want him to bring that for two more years instead of one more, because if you use him you burn a year. That's something I'm debating now."

Four years ago, a strong Dinos squad was pounded 29-2 in a snowstrom at Laval. Dzwilewski replaced Erik Glavic, a victim of repeated drops by his receivers, late in the second half.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I don't know the logistics of all that, but if my number's called, I'll be out there."

Dinos quarterback Eric Dzwilewski said he'll be ready if needed in the Vanier Cup.

Dinos quarterback Eric Dzwilewski, right, walks to the sideline while teammates Andrew Buckley, left, and Jimmy Underahl walk away at the end of a practice on Thursday in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CIS football awards

Bishop's QB wins Hec Crighton

Quarterback Jordan Heather helped turn Bishop's University football around this season and he was rewarded on Thursday night with the Hec Crighton Trophy as Canadian university player of the year.

Heather, the first Gaiter to win the award, set a Canadian Interuniversity Sport record with 3,132 passing yards in eight league games, an average of 391.5 yards per game.

That beat the mark of 3,047 set only one week earlier by Western's Will Finch, a Hec Crighton finalist. The previous record of 3,033 was set by Michael Faulds of Western in 2009.

"I (would) trade all this if I could play in the (Vanier Cup) game on Saturday," Heather said.

Other Crighton finalists were running backs Mercer Timmis of Calgary and Jordan Botel of Mount Allison.

Calgary quarterback Andrew Buckley took the Russ Jackson Award for football, academics and citizenship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who is Peter Dyakowski?

Massive football player who has the IQ to match

Hamilton offensive lineman Peter Dyakowski has already been crowned Canada's Smartest Person. And now the six-foot-five 325-pounder with a Mensa IQ has earned an invitation to appear on Jeopardy.

But the thing he really wants to win is Sunday's Grey Cup.

"Once I get that under my belt, then I'm going to put myself through a good trivia boot camp," the 29-year-old Dyakowski said.

Dyakowski won CBC TV's Canada's Smartest Person show in March 2012. Contestants went head-to-head in six categories of intelligence: musical, physical, social, logical, visual and linguistic.

So is Dyakowski, a seven-year CFL vet who attended LSU on a football scholarship, really Canada's smartest person?

"He doesn't act that smart," Ticat linebacker Frederic Plesius said with a laugh. "In the bus, he likes to scream, make some noises to piss everybody off on purpose.

"But he's a cool guy. He's a leader, he's a good guy and he's an example for the team."

Tiger-Cats offensive lineman Peter Dyakowski lifts Sandro DeAngelis after the kicker made good on a field goal in 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dyakowski, a native of Vancouver who now calls Hamilton home, took an online Jeopardy test in January. He was invited to a July audition in Toronto.

A couple of weeks ago, he got the call that he had made the cut and will appear on the show in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	22	14	6	2	61	41	30
Tampa Bay	21	14	7	0	66	55	28
Toronto	22	13	8	1	64	53	27
Detroit	23	10	6	7	58	65	27
Montreal	22	11	9	2	58	47	24
Ottawa	22	8	10	4	63	71	20
Florida	22	6	12	4	49	72	16
Buffalo	24	5	18	1	43	76	11

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	22	14	8	0	63	48	28
Washington	22	12	9	1	69	63	25
New Jersey	21	8	8	5	46	52	21
NY Rangers	21	10	11	0	43	52	20
Philadelphia	21	9	10	2	44	51	20
Carolina	22	8	10	4	43	63	20
Columbus	22	8	11	3	54	65	19
NY Islanders	22	8	11	3	63	73	19

Thursday's results
St. Louis 3 Boston 2 (SO)
Nashville 4 Toronto 2
Philadelphia 4 Buffalo 1
Detroit 4 Carolina 3
Chicago at Winnipeg
NY Rangers at Dallas
Colorado at Phoenix
Florida at Edmonton
New Jersey at Los Angeles
Tampa Bay at San Jose
Wednesday's results
Minnesota 4 Ottawa 3
Pittsburgh 4 Washington 0
New Jersey 4 Anaheim 3 (OT)
Columbus 2 Calgary 1 (OT)
Friday's games All Times Eastern
Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
St. Louis	21	15	3	3	73	49	33
Chicago	22	14	4	4	79	66	32
Minnesota	23	14	5	4	61	53	32
Colorado	20	15	5	0	64	42	30
Dallas	20	11	7	2	58	56	24
Nashville	22	11	9	2	52	65	24
Winnipeg	23	10	10	3	61	66	23

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	24	15	6	3	75	63	33
San Jose	21	13	3	5	72	50	31
Phoenix	21	14	4	3	73	66	31
Los Angeles	22	15	6	1	63	48	31
Vancouver	23	11	8	4	58	61	26
Calgary	22	7	11	4	60	81	18
Edmonton	23	6	15	2	60	83	14

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

NY Islanders at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Florida at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Columbus at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Carolina at Boston, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Dallas at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
New Jersey at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MLS PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Two-game series; aggregate goals)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

KANSAS CITY VS HOUSTON

Leg 2 — Saturday's game
Houston at Kansas City, 7:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

REAL SALT LAKE VS PORTLAND

Leg 2 — Sunday's game
Real Salt Lake at Portland, 9 p.m.

CFL PLAYOFFS

101ST GREY CUP

Sunday's game — All Times Eastern
Hamilton at Saskatchewan, 6 p.m.

DIVISION FINALS

EAST DIVISION
Sunday's result
Hamilton 36 Toronto 24

WEST DIVISION
Sunday's result
Saskatchewan 35 Calgary 13

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	10	1	.909	—
Miami	9	3	.750	1½
Chicago	6	3	.667	3
Toronto	5	7	.417	5½
Atlanta	7	5	.583	3½
Charlotte	6	6	.500	4½
Philadelphia	5	8	.385	6
Detroit	4	7	.364	6
Washington	4	7	.364	6
Orlando	4	7	.364	6
Cleveland	4	8	.333	6½
Boston	4	9	.308	7
New York	3	8	.273	7
Brooklyn	3	8	.273	7
Milwaukee	2	8	.200	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	10	1	.909	—
Portland	10	2	.833	½
Oklahoma City	7	3	.700	2½
L.A. Clippers	8	4	.667	2½
Golden State	8	4	.667	2½
Dallas	8	4	.667	2½
Houston	8	5	.615	3
Memphis	7	5	.583	3½
Minnesota	7	6	.538	4
Phoenix	5	6	.455	5
New Orleans	5	6	.455	5
L.A. Lakers	5	7	.417	5½
Denver	4	6	.400	5½
Sacramento	4	7	.364	6
Utah	1	12	.077	10

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Thursday's results
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City
Chicago at Denver
Wednesday's results
Indiana 103 New York 96
Washington 98 Cleveland 91
Charlotte 95 Brooklyn 91
Toronto 108 Philadelphia 98
Miami 120 Orlando 92
Atlanta 93 Detroit 85
Portland 91 Milwaukee 82
New Orleans 105 Utah 98
L.A. Clippers 102 Minnesota 98
San Antonio 104 Boston 93
Sacramento 113 Phoenix 106
Dallas 123 Houston 120
Memphis 88 Golden State 81

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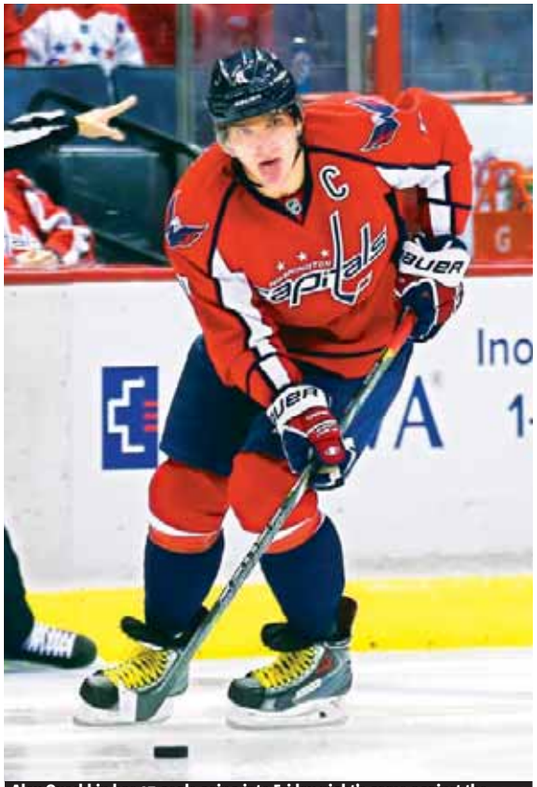
Capitals coach still working on relationship with Ovechkin

NHL. After a rocky time under Dale Hunter, the Washington star has warmed to the approach of his new bench boss



Alex Ovechkin has 17 goals going into Friday night's game against the Canadiens. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Adam Oates earned Alex Ovechkin's respect right away. Oates reached out to Ovechkin after getting the job as coach of the Washington Capitals in June 2012, establishing a connection with the star captain that didn't exist under Dale Hunter. He capitalized on that by convincing Ovechkin to move to right wing last season, a switch that paved the way to Ovechkin winning the Hart Trophy as the league's most valuable player.

But Oates wasn't done cultivating a strong working relationship with his captain. Last summer, he flew to Russia to spend some time away from the rink and in Ovechkin's environment as a thank you for believing in the position change.

"I went there because he did something for the organization, for me and the staff, that he didn't have to do, in my opinion," Oates said Wednesday.

Ovechkin owes Oates for helping him reinvigorate his career after becoming somewhat stale and predictable. His goal production was still better than much of the league — 32 in 2010-11 and 38 in 2011-12 — but he wasn't the game-changing superstar who broke into the league and piled up the awards.

"He wants to know the guys," Ovechkin said. "He don't want to do only training and be at the ice rink and show us video. He want to know everything about us, about me personally. He met my family, as well, last year. It's good." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Getting closer

"He want to know everything about us, about me personally. He met my family, as well, last year."

Alex Ovechkin
Talking about his coach Adam Oates

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Rob Bagg. Receiver has another shot at glory

For a moment, it looked like Rob Bagg's dream of winning the CFL's biggest prize was finally over.

In an Aug. 17 game against the Montreal Alouettes, the Saskatchewan Roughriders wide receiver went out on a blocking assignment and went down in a heap, clutching his left knee.

Bagg left the field in tears, seeming to signal the end of a CFL career that barely managed to get started.

But two days later video emerged of Bagg running the stairs at Mosaic Stadium, and not even two weeks after that he was back in the lineup for the Labour Day Classic, making one catch for seven yards as the Riders downed the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Bagg finished the 2013 regular season fifth on the Riders with 430 yards receiving, and will have the chance Sunday to help his team finish first when Saskatchewan hosts the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the 101st Grey Cup at Mosaic Stadium.

"Getting back on the field is one thing but, really, your main driving factor is you want to be able to tell your kids and grandkids that you were the best in the CFL one year," he said.

Roughriders wide receiver Rob Bagg
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bagg will be in uniform Sunday for his first championship game since 2009, when Saskatchewan lost to Montreal after a too-many-men penalty cost them the game with no time on the clock.

His first shot at redemption was derailed late in the 2010 season when he tore the ACL in his right knee, causing him to miss the Riders' playoff drive and loss in the Grey Cup rematch with Montreal.

Bagg missed all of 2011 after reinjuring the ligament prior to the next season's training camp and played only three games in 2012 before tearing up his other knee, which also required season-ending surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Financial stability

Future looks bright for Tiger-Cats

With a new stadium taking shape and a successful run to the CFL championship game, Hamilton owner Bob Young says the future looks good for the Ticats.

"With a new stadium, a new television contract, a great web presence that we're building on and, of course, a winning football team, the Tiger-Cats will be financially stable for the first time in 42 years — next year, going into the new stadium," Young said Thursday.

"Winning the Grey Cup won't hurt at all," he added with a smile.

Young, a native of Ancaster, Ont., rescued the Ticats from bankruptcy in 2003. He is quick to deflect credit for his role in the team, however.

"The joke I make is my role with the organization is to take credit for all the hard work that everyone else actually does," he said with a laugh. "This is all just evidence that all the hard work that we've put in for the last 10 years actually is paying off and is resulting in the level of excellence that you have to have to get to the Grey Cup." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green gifts. Riders have perch all their own when it comes to merchandise

Long underwear in green, rubber ducks with tiny green football helmets painted on them and a foam helmet that looks like a watermelon.

There is apparently no end to the list of things bearing a Saskatchewan Roughriders logo, and football fans flocking to Regina for the 101st Grey Cup on Sunday can't wait to get their hands on the merchandise.

Riders vice-president of sales Steve Mazurak says Saskatchewan sells as much merchandise as all the other CFL teams combined.

The Riders have had more than $7 million in merchandise sales in each of the last four years, with sales in the 2010 centennial year reaching $10 million.

But Mazurak says it's too early to know if sales this year will pass that $10 million mark, adding that might depend on the outcome of the game Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
As the Sun moves into your fellow Fire sign of Sagittarius today, your confidence will come flooding back and you will wonder why you doubted yourself. If you like the idea of travelling, now is the time to pack a bag and just go.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Money matters will be on your mind over the next few days and you must do whatever it takes to make sure your cash stays in your pocket. Don't let anyone fool you into believing you can get rich quick.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You like to get your way and most of the time you do but today, let the other guy win. You will need other people's co-operation over the next few weeks to get what you need, so give them what they need too.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Slow down before you burn yourself out. That is the message of the planets today and if you are wise you'll heed it. Not even a go-getting Cancer can keep up this pace forever.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may want to get back at people who have let you down but is it worth the effort? No it is not. Within a matter of hours you will have more important things to take care of. Let it go.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Loved ones will be touchy today, so don't say or do anything that might make them even more angry. If you poke, they'll poke back harder.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A more light-hearted phase begins for you today as the Sun changes signs. Money, work and family worries won't disappear immediately but you won't have sleepless nights .

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun leaves your birth sign today but you haven't missed your chance to make your mark. On the contrary, over the next few weeks you will get the chance to build on foundations that have been laid.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
As the Sun moves into your birth sign today, you have every right to follow your heart. Life is too short to worry what other people think. Just do what comes naturally and enjoy every moment.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is so much that needs changing in your life but where do you start? The most obvious place is inside your head. Make clear what it is you most desire and how you can get it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be desperate to make a good impression on colleagues but you are more likely to do so if you take on just one task at a time. Focus on what really matters.

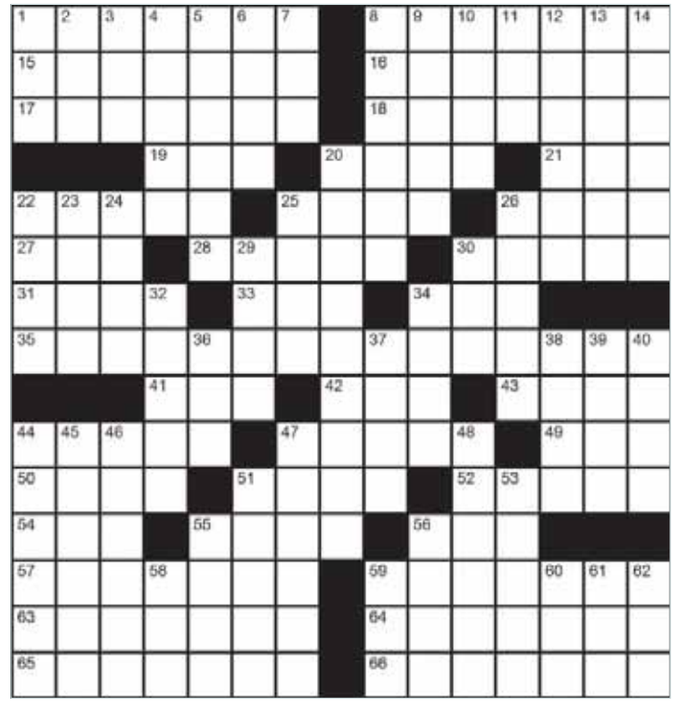
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun crosses the career angle of your chart today. Among other things, that means you will get the chance to show what you can do. Know what you are aiming for.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

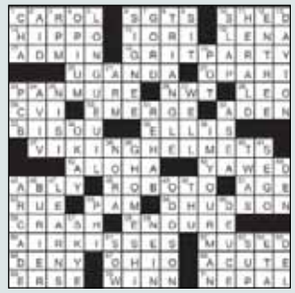
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. President remembered today
8. Sorting systems in medical emergencies
15. Gathered, as information
16. Most strange
17. 1995 Natasha Henstridge Sci-Fi movie
18. Church assistant
19. Tiny tallness
20. Go across
21. Body of water
22. Doom's pal
25. Above
26. Unwanted plant
27. Tractor trailer
28. Valuable virtue
30. Like an in-the-garden squirmer
31. Listeners
33. Bug
34. Comic character's cry!
35. REGINA: Big sports crowd this weekend, The 101st: 3 wds.
41. Towels holder
42. Go downhill
43. City sign's light
44. Self-righteous
47. Devoutness
49. Avant-garde artist Yoko
50. Riviere-du-__, Quebec
51. George of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"
52. Painting studio sight
54. TV commercials
55. Scarce
56. Lass
57. Sodium __
59. Pensive
63. Dough prepper
64. Gush about
65. Religious lectures
66. Type of weapon

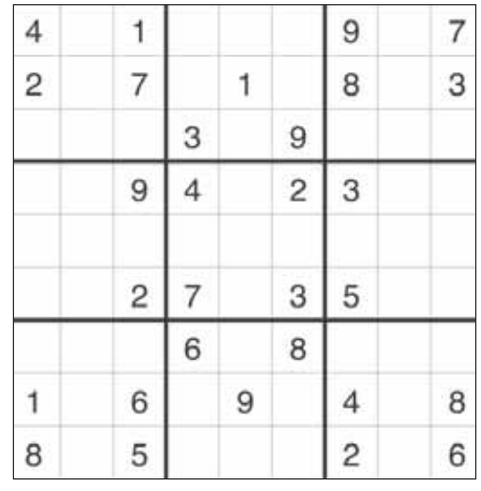
Down
1. Li'l metric weights
2. "Lucky Man" gr.
3. Society pages word
4. Tortilla treat
5. Conundrum
6. Bug repellent ingredient
7. Fabric store measurements, for short
8. Crochet a cozy for one
9. Sports play summary
10. Laundry room appliance
11. Garlic: French
12. Yellowstone attraction
13. Self-__
14. Calm
20. Move out of the way: 2 wds.
22. Marcia's TV brother
23. Untruther
24. Monster
25. At-work's NOW!
26. Stirred from sleep
29. Particular poker
30. Dynasty of China
32. Pancakes topping
34. Modifiy
36. The __ (Comedian Bill, informally)
37. Cute li'l instruments
38. Modernists
39. Funnel shape
40. Organic compound
44. They're walked on movie ships
45. Solution applied to wounds
46. Expulsion
47. Veggie de-peeling devices
48. Like bread dough
51. Devoured
53. Howe'er
55. James __ (Co-writer of Broadway musical Hair)
56. Actress Ms. Gershon
58. Aries, The __
59. Spider's work of art
60. Good times
61. Function
62. Allow

Yesterday's Crossword

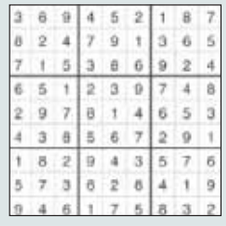


Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: 0° MIN: -12°	MAX: 7° MIN: -4°	MAX: 5° MIN: -7°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

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METEOROLOGIST
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WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE
There is no situation of life that is not common to man, be rest assured that unpalatable situation will not swallow you up. Just reassure yourself as the Psalmist did when he said," Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4)
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2008 33rd Ave. SW

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6039 Centre St. S

4825 Macleod Trail SW

Southeast

Deerfoot Meadows

Shepard Centre

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3012 17th Ave. SE

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